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Sun shines for photo-finish polling

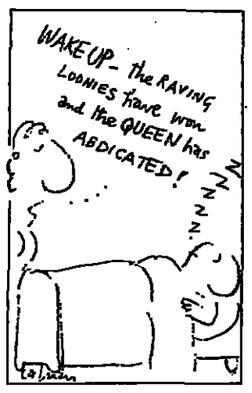
Voters prefer coalition if hung election

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

WITH early indications from yesterday's polling *supporting expectations* of a hung parliament, a new survey has confirmed that Britons would rather see a coalition between two or more parties than have one of the main parties forming a minority government.

In an eve of election poll for *The Times*, Mori asked electors: "*In principle would you* prefer a minority government in which no single party has a majority of seats in the House of Commons, even if this means an early general election, or would you prefer to see a coalition government?"

Nearly half of those asked, 45 per cent, said they would prefer coalition government and only 39 per cent said they *would prefer minority* government. The public appears to be rejecting the stance of the two main party leaders. Both John Major and Neil Kinnock have said that they would not attempt to form a coalition if there were a hung parliament and they have indicated that they would attempt to govern on their own, bringing the likelihood of another early election.



But Paddy Ashdown, for the Liberal Democrats, has argued that if the voters present the nation with a hung parliament today, it would be arrogant for either of the two main parties to seek to govern on less than 40 per cent of the national vote.

The Mori survey, conducted among 1,731 adults in 164 constituencies on Tuesday and Wednesday, also asked electors what they would prefer Mr Ashdown and the Liberal Democrats to do in a hung parliament. Feelings were fairly evenly split. While 36 per cent of respondents thought that Mr Ashdown and his party should vote with the Conservatives to keep them in power, 38 per cent thought they should vote with Labour to put them into government.

Checks by party workers at polling stations and heavy election betting yesterday confirmed the likelihood of a close result when the full seats tally is known later today.

Mr Major, arriving to vote in his Huntingdon constituency with his wife Norma, declared confidently: "I'm feeling lucky. We are going to win," he said. "I've said so consistently from the beginning of the campaign. I'm not going to change my mind now."

Mr Kinnock and his wife, Glenys, cast their votes at St Augustine's church hall in the village of Pontllanfraith, which lies in his Islwyn, South Wales, constituency. "*The sun is out*," he said. "So are the Tories. I think we are in a very good position to win." He admitted that he was slightly nervous but said that was only natural on polling day.

Mr Ashdown, the first of the three party leaders to vote, walked to the local Nortonsub Hamdon polling station in his Yeovil constituency with his wife Jane at 8am. "It's been a great campaign, it's ending with wonderful weather," he said.

During the morning the Ashdowns visited other Somerset polling stations at the Yeovil Sports Club and Manor Court primary school in Chard. They returned home at midday for lunch and a chance to catch up on sleep after what has been a particularly arduous campaign for the Liberal Democrat leader, who is estimated to have travelled 25,000 miles during the past month. Last night they left their cottage at about 11.30pm to drive to Westland Sports and Social Club in Yeovil to await the declaration of Mr Ashdown's constituency result.

The latest Mori survey also asked voters who they thought would make the best prime minister. The research showed that 38 per cent preferred Mr Major, 27 per cent named Mr Kinnock and 20 per cent Mr Ashdown. While among Conservative supporters 88 per cent thought Mr Major was the best man for the job, only 66 per cent of Labour supporters thought Mr Kinnock would make the best prime minister and just 58 per cent of Liberal Democrat backers thought Mr Ashdown would be the best choice.

Both Mr Major's and Mr Ashdown's personal popularity fell by two points during the four-week campaign, while Mr Kinnock remained on the same figure. Eight per cent of Labour supporters think that Mr Major would be the best prime minister and 6 per cent of them believe

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PHOTOGRAPHS: TIM BISHOP, CHRIS HARRIS

Polls apart: on a sunshine election day John Major looks for last-minute signs of victory in the garden of a house at Alconbury which is used as local Conservative campaign headquarters, and Neil Kinnock hails what he hopes will be a Labour dawn after voting at a church hall in Pontllanfraith

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

An instant guide to the Commons

Tomorrow, *The Times* publishes a 16-page supplement giving complete seat-by-seat results of the general election. The supplement lists all candidates, the votes they won and the swings they registered. It also contains potted biographies of the winners, making it the best immediately-available guide to the new House of Commons.

A new feature in this year's supplement is a full colour map of the country, showing at a glance which party won what seats where. Bob Worcester of Mori will also give his full analysis of how the votes moved: North and South, young and old, women and men.

The Times supplement is only one part of the comprehensive coverage planned for tomorrow, which will include campaign facts and figures; analysis of what happens next, and the human stories of defeat and triumph: a vital issue for the vital issues.

London gambles on Tories

BY RODNEY HOBSON

SHARES surged in London as investors gambled that increased support for the Conservatives *in the last opinion* polls of the campaign would translate into a Tory victory.

About £8.6 billion was added to share values as the FT-SE top 100 index soared 42 points to close at its best level of the day. It was the biggest one-day rise this year.

Privatised stocks led the way with Northern Electricity up 18p to 258p and most *water stocks at least 10p* better. The pound was firm as prospects of an interest rate rise receded.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei average fell heavily, by 577.38 points to 16,598.15, sending shock waves through the financial community. In New York, the Dow Jones average was 40 points ahead by mid-session.

Human cost, page 15
Leading article, page 17
Nikkei still falling, page 21

INSIDE

Black Sea fleet truce

Russia and Ukraine backed off from each other in their dispute over the Black Sea fleet with Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk both suspending decrees claiming control of the fleet. In Moscow, members of the Russian Congress moved to strip Mr Yeltsin of some of his presidential powers and to prevent him holding both the presidency and prime ministership.....**Page 14**

Windfall lost

THE Church of England and St Bartholomew's hospital, London, lost the multi-million pound windfall they were expecting from the King's Cross redevelopment when the Court of Appeal overturned a ruling that they had a right to buy back 52 acres at 1850s prices.....**Page 5**

Cooling off

Fewer than one in ten doctors knows how to use a thermometer properly, according to a survey of Surrey GPs. Few used a thermometer at all, and those that did admitted they did not always clean it properly .....Page 3

Delors angry

Jacques Delors is complaining that EC ministers are failing to discuss seriously a bigger Community budget and that nobody has considered how an expanded EC might function.....**Page 14**

Trips threat

School trips abroad and town twinning exchanges could be threatened by an EC directive which will require organisers to put down a bond to protect passengers, as big tour operators do.....**Page 20**

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Tsongas throws in nomination towel

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PAUL Tsongas will not re-enter the race for the Democratic party's presidential nomination in spite of winning an unsolicited 29 per *cent of the New York primary* vote on Tuesday.

The former senator's decision, announced in Boston yesterday, means that Bill Clinton, governor of Arkansas, is assured of the most valuable Democratic nomination since Watergate — barring new disclosures about his past.

Jerry Brown, the former California governor, has been sidelined by his poor performances in Tuesday's four primaries. Both the Clinton camp and Ron Brown, the party chairman, are now striving to rally a still-nervous party establishment behind the presumptive nominee so *that the Democrats' fire can* be trained on President Bush as early as possible.

Mr Tsongas said he would have re-entered the race had Mr Brown won primaries on Tuesday, but Mr Clinton's victories limited him to the role of "spoiler". He urged his supporters to cease their efforts on his behalf, but declined to endorse Mr Clinton or to say if he would consider being his running mate.

Clinton bandwagon, page 15

Noriega guilty on 8 counts

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MANUEL Noriega was convicted yesterday of eight out of ten drug and racketeering charges that led to America's invasion of Panama in 1989.

The former Panamanian leader was found guilty of the key counts of racketeering and racketeering conspiracy, plus six lesser charges. He was acquitted of two lesser charges, cocaine distribution and conspiracy to import cocaine.

The federal court trial in Miami lasted seven months, during which the government lawyers painstakingly built their case against a head of state who they branded "a *small man in a general's* uniform".

The jury took five days to reach its verdict.

Millionaire farmer found murdered

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A WEALTHY farmer has been found dead in a hollow on his land near Salisbury. He had been shot twice in the back.

Detectives believe an earlier mysterious knife attack on Peter Jowett, aged 43, in his home at Winterslow four months ago could be linked *with the murder. Mr Jowett* needed surgery for stab wounds but did not call the police and and three weeks later asked them to call off their investigation.

Detectives are also investigating the millionaire's social and private life. Mr Jowett, married with two children, was found by police lying in a copse on the edge of his 900-acre farm.

His car had been left parked on a grass verge on the A30 nearby. He disappeared while in charge of lambing on his farm and his absence was not noted until one of his staff came to relieve him on Wednesday night and could not find him.

Yesterday police searched the area around where the body was found and last night discovered a gun incor*porated in a booby-trap de*vice, believed to be the murder weapon.

In the village Mr Jowett was described as "a ladies' man" and one theory was that the attacks were motivated by jealousy.

Police said that Mr Jowett, described by neighbours as a pleasant and quiet man, had not reported any threats to his life nor were police aware of any threats.

Earlier attack, page 3

Punters bet £7m on race for Downing Street

BY ALAN HAMILTON

PITY the poor punter in South Africa who telephoned William Hill on Wednesday with a £10,000 bet on Labour taking the most seats at 3-1 on. He was much too hasty; had he waited until yesterday morning to catch the last-minute change in the wind, he would have increased his potential winnings from £3,000 to £8,000 as the odds drifted away from Labour and back to a neck-and-neck race.

With the final opinion polls showing a modest Tory revival, the big bookmakers eventually closed the book at 5pm yesterday afternoon quoting identical odds of 6-5 on Labour or Conservatives forming the largest single party, although a hung parliament remained the most favoured outcome at odds of 5-2 on. There had been a brief rally to Labour in mid-afternoon, taking them to 11-8 on favourites with the Tories trail*ing at even money, but it did not last.*

Bookmakers are entirely non-political animals; they merely rake in the loot. Odds reflect only one thing: the amount of money placed on any particular outcome. The amount placed this time appears to have been something of a record.

In 1987 the book was closed well before the end of campaigning, so cut-and-dried did the result appear, but yesterday — for the first time — the bookies were taking election bets on polling day, and of the cascade of money showering across the counters, three quarters of it was on the Tories. The tide turned after lunch, with a late surge to Labour.

Election fever has gripped the punting classes as never before, and the industry estimated that by the time it closed the book last night it had taken more than £7 million. Takings have been pushed up by the *wide range of tempting bets on offer* from an industry struggling to maintain its traditional income from horse racing. The big chains have been offering odds on the outcome in 100 individual constituencies.

Bets poured in to Britain's three big bookmaking chains from all corners of the globe, and even Brighton, from where one customer placed £18,000 on Labour being the largest single party. The bookmakers briefly caught their breath, until an account customer in Hong Kong, where gambling is such an endemic disease that the World Health Organisation does not even bother to monitor it, wagered £10,000 on a Tory win. An optimistic Scot from north of Berwick, where the Tories have faced virtual annihilation for several years, has put £6,000 on the northern kingdom's least favoured party ending up with the most seats at Westminster; the sporran has always taken precedence over the heart.

By midday yesterday Glenda Jackson had become almost unbackable in Hampstead, at odds of 9-1 on. But some customers were still prepared to invest fortunes to win peanuts. One punter in Southend invested £11,000 in Ms Jackson. Chris Patten, who started at even money to hold Bath, had drifted out to 6-5 against by yesterday morning as his hopes seemed to diminish. Yet most of the day's money was clearly on the Tories, and one major chain took no less than £30,000 of it in the first 30 minutes of business.

But the fickle jade of fate has taken several turns in the last 24 hours. Labour were leading up to Wednesday afternoon, when the first sniff of

Continued on page 20, col 1

Home thoughts from sidewalk, boulevard and Kenya's surf set

Thatcher: hurrying back to cast her vote

Seen from abroad, the election has a different perspective. *Times* correspondents report on the British communities in three capitals

UNITED STATES: AMERICAN political trends tend to follow those in Britain (Martin Fletcher writes). That may explain the eagerness of White House staffers to attend last night's election party at the British embassy. Those with invitations were said to be distributing photocopies to those without.

"It's become the hottest ticket in town," one observer said. Some 300 guests were expected, not in the ambassador's magnificent Lutyens residence on Massachusetts Avenue, but in the rather more prosaic modern office block next door. Congressmen, journalists and the capital's ubiquitous "senior administration officials" were coming, and as late as yesterday morning congressional aides were ringing to ask for tickets.

Some thought was given to inviting Margaret Thatcher, who was rounding off an American speaking tour, but she was hurrying back to Britain to vote.

Thanks to the time difference, Washington's British press corps — at least those not hired as temporary pundits by American television stations — was savouring the prospect of watching the results in mid-evening for a change and not during the small hours of morning.

The embassy's press office, the official hosts, had arranged to pluck ITN's coverage off a passing satellite and set up a scoreboard to keep a running tally. It also set up telephone lines to field queries from the American media about what promised, in the event of a hung parliament, to be a very confusing evening. The embassy, of course, is strictly non-partisan.

In New York, both the BBC and the British Information Service were hosting parties. The BIS was also plucking coverage off satellite via the Rockefeller Center for the 300 guests, mostly media, that it planned to feed with pork pies, veal and ham pies, Branston pickle and pickled onions. It had also prepared detailed information packs on British electoral peculiarities. "I have been boning up all month," Mike Horne, the BIS director, said.

Ex-pats across America could watch the results come in. They were being carried live all evening by the C-Span network, which gave extensive coverage to the campaign, and by 23 Public Broadcasting Service stations in most major cities.

"A number of us will be sitting anxiously awaiting the outcome," said Barry New, president of the British American Business Association, which will shortly be giving a lunch for American businessmen to explain implications of the results.

☐ **FRANCE:** Election night in Paris led the select few, more simply the lucky, to the magnificent surroundings of Her Britannic Majesty's spacious embassy on Faubourg St Honoré (a correspondent writes).

As veterans of the Parisian social scene know well, the hospitality offered by Sir Ewen and Lady Fergusson is second to none, with a refreshing absence of the heavy formality encountered elsewhere on the diplomatic circuit. What is more, the resident British press corps can always rely on a splendid Caledonian welcome (HM's embassies elsewhere, please note).

With buffet and bar to hand and a home-made swingometer in the wings, not to mention the services of Radio 4 and BBC Television via cable — installed in the nick of time — the scene was set for a a dramatic denouement around midnight in Paris, which is an hour ahead of London.

Embassy staff had bought their tickets in the election sweepstake six weeks ago and no adjustments were permitted. Wild horses could not extract further details about who had drawn what.

Blow-ups of the colour election *charts from The Times* adorned the historic walls of the embassy. Honesty obliges one to note that other newspapers were also represented. Elsehere in Paris, the local branch of the Conservative party was preparing to celebrate/drown sorrows at a hotel, the local Labour party was looking forward to a jolly knees-up and the Liberal Democrats had switched on their answering machine.

☐ **KENYA:** The prospect of a Labour victory drove the expatriate community in Kenya, traditionally more interested in surfing and safaris than the affairs of the home country, to even greater lengths of apathy (Sam Kiley writes).

Unlike other parts of the world where Britons away from home sat glued to the BBC World Service to find out whether 13 years of Conservative rule had come to an end, expatriates in Kenya seemed hardly aware that Britain was in the midst of a political spasm.

In the exclusive Muthaiga suburb, home of the British High Commission Residence and the infamous Muthaiga Club, Nairobi's expatriate elite attended a party not in celebration or mourning of the election, but to say farewell to a junior diplomat leaving the foreign service.

"The prospect of a Labour victory has driven Britons in Kenya further into their shells than ever before," one seasoned observer said. "I doubt they would have taken much interest if the Conservatives had looked like winning, but they are now affecting a look of total indifference."

Democracy has a day of ups and downs

Poll refugees find sanctuary on Lundy

BY LIN JENKINS AND LOUISE HIDALGO

THE emotions of a tough campaign were still evident at the polling stations as the nation voted yesterday. Some party supporters tried foul means to influence the outcome; others complained of seemingly innocent factors that could affect the vote.

In Brighton a verger was arrested after complaints that voters were being bribed, and in Bath an offer of free drinks if Chris Patten lost was abandoned for the same reason. Two polling stations that happened to be painted in one party's colours had to be covered in brown paper.

Few places escaped the last-minute loud-hailer appeals on behalf of candidates. The island of Lundy in the Bristol Channel was one, attracting an unexpected influx of bird watchers who enjoyed the island's detachment from the election, since it has no polling station and radios and television sets have been banned from visitors' rooms until Sunday. The bird watchers, of course, maintained that the attraction was really a murrelet, a tiny bird from the Pacific Ocean, making only its second appearance in Europe.

The verger in Brighton was arrested after allegations that voters were being offered £7.50 to vote Labour with stolen polling cards. He was questioned and freed on police bail.

Campaigners against the business rate in Bath cancelled publicised plans to give a free glass of buck's fizz to each customer at a local club if Mr Patten, the Conservative party chairman, lost his seat in the closely fought contest. Phil Andrews, owner of Mole's nightclub, said: "We were told that we could be charged with infringing electoral law."

In Lincoln Tories complained when two portable cabins to be used as polling stations arrived painted red and yellow, the colours of Labour posters. Winston Crumblehulme, a councillor, said: "I was horrified. The cabins could have had a real influence on people." The council wrapped the cabins in brown paper to provide political anonymity. Chris Keywood, deputy returning officer, said that no colour had been specified when they were ordered

All manner of buildings were used as polling stations. One couple who allowed their home, Copley Hall, in Howick, Northumberland, to be used for polling found that they were not eligible to cast their vote there, but had to travel three miles to a neighbouring ward. David and Christine Jackson now want the boundary changed.

Voters in Bishopsworth, Bristol, had the most unconventional polling station after vandals super-glued the doors of the building that was to have been used. Janet Redman, the presiding officer, stuck the polling station sticker on her Morris Ital windscreen and put the ballot boxes in the boot.

About 60 people cast their vote before the building doors were un-stuck. In Exeter the skittle alley of the Ship and Parrot served as the venue.

A couple from West Drayton, west London, failed yesterday in their High Court attempt to force the council to include them on the electoral role so that they could vote. Steve and Jacqueline Cripps realised only last week that they had forgotten to register.

Mr Justice Schiemann ruled that the law did not allow for last minute changes to the register. Mrs Cripps said that the case had cost them £500.

A group of people in Fenny Drayton, Warwickshire, and another group in Featherstone, near Castleford, Yorkshire, discovered yesterday that they had been disfranchised. Those in Fenny Drayton had planned to take a case to the High Court since they blame the local council, but yesterday abandoned the action because of cost.

The residents of a new estate of 32 homes were left with no vote after Wakefield council admitted that it had made a mistake and missed it off the electoral roll. The council said: "The development is tucked away behind shops and was unfortunately missed when forms were distributed."

The Royal Mail is holding an enquiry after 20,000 polling cards were not delivered by last Thursday's deadline.

Bland battle left out meaty matter

So much electoral style, so little substance, laments **Pierre Haski**, London bureau chief of the French daily *Libération*

THERE'S something pathetic about the end of the election campaign. Everything has been argued *ad nauseam*, and the two main contenders have devoted their greatest efforts to damage-limitation and putting on a facade of self-confidence. What's missing is a message: like the rest of western Europe, Britain has gone the American way, where style long ago became more important than substance.

Without being a cold war nostalgic, I begin to miss the good old days of ideological warfare and competing visions of the world.

Consensus politics has become the cant phrase across Europe. Hence, the protest vote that has shaken the political establishment in recent elections in France, Italy and Germany. Britain is no longer an island, and if John Major loses, he can blame European contamination.

Consensus politics, it seems, has gone a long way in Britain. Labour has made dramatic efforts to look respectable, dropping the most radical aspects of its policies. Few reds now lurk under Neil Kinnock's bed, although some Conservative newspapers tried to make him look like Lenin. It is hard, however, to avoid comparison with the French Socialists, who have travelled the same path, losing their soul on the way, if they ever had one.

The real red, I hear, is Mr Major, now the only European politician calling for a classless society, a real challenge for the prime minister of the most class-conscious European country. His attempts to look socialist while Mr Kinnock was trying to reconcile himself with the market economy have narrowed the political spectrum, making one wonder what the voters will see as the difference.

It was therefore puzzling to see Margaret Thatcher on stage to back her successor. Her discreet smile at the public rally she held with John Major said it all. There was an air of defiance about her as she stood before those who had ousted her.

Bringing Mrs T into the campaign did not add much to discussion of European issues. John Major came out of Maastricht with an ideal position, appeasing anti-EC Conservatives without closing any door on the EC. No one, in Brussels or in the financial world, believes Britain will stay outside a single currency.

Europe would make interesting election debate, but for obvious reasons it's an issue that Mr Major has largely ducked. European integration should be a big issue in French, British or Italian elections. In each country, it is largely absent, or, even worse, has fed a protest vote against the main parties. The issue, it seems, is thought too dangerous, even for Labour, which now seems ashamed of its pro-EC conversion.

I wouldn't like to have been in an undecided voter's shoes: how did he choose between smiling John and smiling Neil? As the slogan went in a previous US election: where's the beef, or, as we French might say about English politicians, *où est le rosbif?*

MARC ASPLAND

Action stations: Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, after rising early yesterday to cast his vote at Norton sub Hamdon, near Yeovil

Adding up a costly contest

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THERE is nothing like an election for stimulating a stagnant economy and putting money into circulation. The cost of yesterday's exercise in democracy is estimated at £100 million, with the taxpayer the loser and the media the main beneficiary.

Public funds pay for the machinery of election. The provision of facilities and staff in polling stations from Shetland to the Isles of Scilly, with legions of polling clerks and tellers paid a day's labour, is estimated to have cost about £40 million.

Of the main parties, the Tories appear to have run the costliest campaign, and a figure of £20 million was suggested yesterday, compared with £8 million spent by Labour and £1.5 million by the Liberal Democrats.

The Tory campaign was, as ever, funded largely by big business; Labour relied on the covert support of the trade unions, who it is estimated met three quarters of their party's campaign costs. Readers of *The Times* will have noticed full-page advertisements from a number of *unions backing the Labour* cause, including Nalgo, the NUT and the Inland Revenue Staff Federation.

One of the most successful advertisers has been the International Federation for Animal Welfare, which has spent £750,000 on newspaper space, bringing 60,000 requests for its information pack, it says.

Although the media has raked in large extra sums as a result of election campaigns, it has spent heavily too. Television, radio and newspapers have spent an estaimted £10 million on election coverage, *much of it on commissioning* opinion polls.

VOX POP
By Peter Barnard

A whiff of scandal brings rude awakening

YOU did your duty last night and now you are sitting on the train to work. You are enfeebled by lack of sleep and think you may have overdosed on Dimbleby or Day.

A man sitting opposite is looking disturbingly chipper, so much so that he wants to talk.

"Did you see it?"

"God, yes, stayed up all . . ."

"Marvellous girl, eh? Well both of 'em, really. You can see how Profumo . . ."

You rub your eyes. You search the memory. You can recall a swingometer, you can summon at least 200 returning officers, you can describe Peter Snow's tie and remember when he loosened it. But a girl? *He is talking again.*

"Couldn't decide whether to watch it and record *Have I Got News For You* or the other way around. In the end flicked between the channels. Sex and satire, marvellous stuff."

Sex and satire? You wouldn't put it quite like that. A woman in the corner seat pipes up. "Once Bitten" she says. "Unmissable."

"Sorry?"

"*Once Bitten.* Horror film on Sky. Female vampire recruiting male virgins, amazing. So was . . ."

Very briefly indeed, an image of Margaret Thatcher naming a new cabinet crosses your mind.

". . . *Trapped*, woman stuck in office building with crazed killer. Also *The Freaks*, which preceded *Trapped Once Bitten*. Watched all three, marvellous."

By now your mental health is endangered. You have not yet worked out the bit about girls and Profumo, let alone the male virgins and the crazed killer. So you say: "Those girls, yes, a damned nuisance. I missed it, you know . . . had to, um, pop out."

The man looks as if he is about to pass you over for promotion. "*Scandal*," he says. "Channel Four last night. All about Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies and Stephen Ward and John Profumo, terrific stuff. Of course in those days politics had a bit of zip to it."

At last the penny drops. The prognosis for the rest of your career looms, and it does not look good.

You have committed the cardinal sin. You have stepped on to the commuter train having failed to see anything worth talking about on television last night.

Wife of candidate dies after 999 call

The wife of a Labour candidate died of a suspected heart attack yesterday morning. Chitra Viswanadha, aged 35, rang an ambulance at 11.40am but collapsed while on the telephone. She was taken to Whittington hospital, north London, where her death was certified.

Her husband, Martin Upham, aged 45, was contesting Enfield North, held in 1987 by Tim Eggar, junior education minister, with a majority of 14,000. Mr Upham was at Labour's campaign headquarters when he was told the news.

It is understood that he returned home to Hornsey, north London, to comfort his two young daughters. Mr Upham, a freelance writer and lecturer, was not expected at the constituency count.

Postal voters counted out

More than 200 sick and elderly people were deprived of a vote yesterday when a mailbag containing requests for postal and proxy votes was delivered to Camden town hall, north London, after the legal time limit.

The bag is believed to have lain forgotten at St Pancras Way sorting office, a mile from its destination. Labour, which has a large majority in Camden, realised the mistake when the final voting register was published last week. The Post Office is to investigate after a complaint by the acting returning officer.

Ambridge agog for poll result

Whoever is called to Buckingham Palace to form the new government will receive a mention in tonight's episode of *The Archers*, even though the show was taped six weeks ago.

Scriptwriters and stars of the BBC tale of country folk are on stand-by to record a "topical insert". A spokesman said:

"It's a real rush job. We only do this very, very rarely. The last was for Terry Waite's release. If the topic is of such importance that the whole country is talking about it, then Ambridge will be too."

CORRECTION

Due to a computer error, a number of the figures given for the size of constituency electorates in 1992 in yesterday's election guide to seats and candidates were incorrect. The correct figures will be included in the full 16-page results supplement to be published in tomorrow's *Times*.

All-too-cosy conspiracy shows contempt for voter

CAMPAIGN SKETCH
MATTHEW PARRIS

NOT many days ago, a coachload of photographers and journalists drew up at a school. So did Mr Kinnock. Mr Kinnock got out of his car. The photographers climbed out of their coach. The children *came out of their classrooms.*

Mr Kinnock stood among the children. The photographers formed a ring around the ensemble. He smiled at them and the children smiled back. The photographers took photographs.

Then a man said: "Back into the coach" and the photographers obeyed. Mr Kinnock returned to his car and drove off. The coach drove off. They were going to another school.

And the question arises: Why?

When I was very young, politicians would tour around meeting voters. The voters were the object of this exercise: the aim was to attract their support by calling in person. Reporters and photographers were a nuisance and either excluded from these occasions, or tolerated, under protest, in small numbers. But it soon occurred to politicians that the report and pictures of their tours reached more voters than the tours themselves. The media began to be welcomed.

Next, the politicians realised that, if part of the object of the tour was to achieve media coverage, then it should be planned with the media in mind. Notice was given, and party aides began making arrangements for the convenience not just of the politicians and the electors, but of the media too. It was not long before tours were chosen as much for their interest to the cameramen as for the impact they would make on the places and people visited.

The next chapter in this unfolding story describes the stage we have reached now. The voter has become an intrusion upon the media's encounter with the politician. The voter is in the way. Party leaders attract large numbers of photographers and reporters, and take with them a growing party of aides, campaign co-ordinators, spin doctors and security personnel. There is hardly room left in the average school hall, factory forecourt or intensive care ward for children, workers or casualties.

Besides, real conversation with *such people has become impossible* before so vast and intimidating an audience. The technical paraphernalia that now accompany a recording and photographic team are awesome, and frightening to ordinary people. Schools, factories and hospitals are not really designed with the lighting and sound requirements of the media in mind. Batteries run out and there may be no sockets for plugs. Harsh lights may hurt sick patients, and extraneous background noise — of teachers teaching, lathes turning, or patients groaning — may interrupt *the political message.*

Yet, however token, the presence of some apparently real people in apparently real situations is a necessary component in television or newspaper drama. The viewer requires it. The dilemma is acute.

The dilemma can be resolved. I have a modest proposal for the next election. Why not use actors? Why move large numbers of media and political personnel to inconvenient locations around the country, when there are studios in London perfectly *equipped to simulate them?* Why does the limousine need to travel 400 miles up and down the motorway when a shot of Mr Kinnock stepping into it in London, and another shot of him getting out, with a sign "Welcome to Leeds" tacked onto the canvas backdrop behind him, will do?

I grant that the idea takes a little swallowing. Stills photographers remain truculent. But television is what matters and a video cameraman's professional ethos lies in the art of illusion. By way of example, let me leave you — and this campaign — with a question . . .

Did you see any of Mr Ashdown's town hall speeches on television, not a note before him, his head sweeping from left to right? You did? And did you ever see a camera shot of the text scrolling across his two AutoCue glasses? Did you heck. And do you agree that it is of legitimate interest to the voter that his apparently impromptu speaking style was a trick?

In television, as in politics, things have to be contrived. It breeds a loyalty to artifice. This loyalty, unconsciously shared between politicians and television producers, is a conspiracy against the citizen. If Mr Kinnock's famous stumble on the sand at Brighton were to occur today, there are TV producers who would mutter "Take 2" and ask him to try the walk again, this time without falling.

Surf set

Wife of candidate dies after 999 call

Postal voters counted out

Ambridge agog for poll result

for voter

Police enquiry focuses on murder victim's private life after body found dumped in field

Millionaire farmer shot in back

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

POLICE were last night investigating the private life of a murdered millionaire farmer who was shot twice in the back and left in a field on his farm near Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Officers continued to search the area after finding "a device" on the 900-acre farm 40 yards from where Peter Jowett, aged 43, was found on Wednesday night.

In November last year Mr Jowett, a married man with two children, was the victim of an attack when an intruder broke into his home. He needed surgery for stab wounds but did not call the police and three weeks later asked them to call off their investigation into the incident.

Detective Chief Inspector David Sinclair, in charge of the investigation, said police were concentraing on the November stabbing, which only became known to them after it was reported by the hospital.

One theory in the village is that the two attacks could have been motivated by jealousy. Asked if the farmer could be described as a "ladies' man" Mr Sinclair said "I can't confirm or deny that." Following the house attack Mr Jowett asked police to halt their investigations. Mr Sinclair said yesterday that this was "somewhat unusual" but added that the police did halt their work and the farmer had not asked for any police help or protection.

The detective said Mr Jowett, described by neighbours as a pleasant and quiet man, had not reported any threats to his life nor were police aware of any threats. The attack at the farm took place at 1.30am and the intruder, wearing a balaclava, broke in by removing a pane of glass. He fled without taking anything.

The incident could, said Mr Sinclair, be the key to the murder investigation. The detective who dealt with the attack is now part of the murder team. Yesterday police were also trying to piece together events in the last few hours of Mr Jowett's life and discover why he left his sheep during lambing, a crucial time in the farming year and drove his Volvo car to the edge of the farm.

He was last seen at 6.30pm on Wednesday. He had been dressed for lambing, wearing a green wax jacket, green waterproof leggings and green wellingtons. In mid-evening a farm manager went to relieve him and discovered he had finished. The manager told Mr Jowett's wife Lavinia who called police.

A patrol car was in the area and as it headed for the farm police spotted the Volvo Estate car parked on the verge of the A30. Police walked into the darkened woods running away from the road and found the farmer lying face down dressed in outdoor clothes for lambing.

Police are investigating whether Mr Jowett was called from lambing by a telephone call to meet someone away from the farm. The Jowett family is well known locally and the dead man's parents Humphrey and Elizabeth have another large farm in a nearby village. They are on their yacht in the Caribbean and efforts are being made to contact them. The family is also understood to own land in Australia. Earlier this year Mr Jowett enlarged his land by taking another field. The farm raises sheep and cattle, breed pheasants and grows wheat.

Yesterday the farm was guarded by police and neighbours spoke of their surprise at the death. But Edna Webb, a local postmistress, said the farmer had a reputation as "something of a ladies' man". She said he might have been killed out of jealousy.

"He was real country farmer and a very good-looking chap. There have always been a lot of rumours about Mr Jowett.I'm not surprised about this. It's his wife and children I feel sorry for. She's a little thing, very petite and quiet. She took the kids to church on Sunday."

Victim's car: Mr Jowett's blue Volvo estate, roped off by police yesterday. It was parked near the woods where his body was found

£6,000 race case offer 'rejected'

A black civil servant who claims to be the victim of racial discrimination has been offered an *ex gratia* payment of £6,000 by the Home Office as an out of court settlement after she took her case to an industrial tribunal.

Lorette Williams, aged 55, of Purley, Surrey, a clerical assistant in the prison department, alleges that she has been harassed for years and denied training and promotion. She is not expected to accept the offer because it is conditional on her early retirement on medical grounds.

Police accused

A Metropolitan policewoman yesterday asked for victimisation to be added to her complaints of sexual harassment and racial discrimination. Sarah Locker, aged 30, who is of Turkish origin and was based at Leman Street police station, east London, claims that she was prevented from becoming a detective because of her race and sex. The hearing continues.

Souness well

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool football manager, is progressing well after his heart operation, the Alexandra Hospital in Cheadle, Cheshire, said.

Health, L&T section, pages 5, 6

MP case delay

An inquest at Liverpool coroner's court into the death in 1990 of Mike Carr, Labour MP for Bootle, soon after he left a hospital, has been adjourned while points of law are put to the High Court.

Church petitioned over danger sites

By Tim Jones

RELATIVES of workers killed or injured in the construction industry have appealed for the support of church leaders to force through tougher penalties on employers who neglect safety.

Angela Reilly, who helped set up the construction relatives support group, said many men had been maimed or suffered horrific deaths which could have been avoided. Her brother, Stephen, aged 29, died when he fell 65ft working on the Canary Wharf tower block in London's Docklands.

"Stephen was engaged and his death was a shattering blow to his fiancée, his mother who was dependent on him, and to me," Ms Reilly said. "Two companies admitted negligence but they were only fined £1,800 which was totally inadequate."

The group has met Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, and asked him to press their case with government ministers, the Health and Safety Executive, the TUC and employers. Ms Reilly said: "There should be far more Health and Safety inspectors and fines should be much higher to force companies to take their responsibilities seriously. In some cases, employers shown to have been negligent should be imprisoned."

Her views on managers' responsibilities were supported by David Eves, deputy director general of the executive, who yesterday told managers that most fatal accidents could be prevented if more positive action had been taken. He told the Association of Insurance and Risk Managers in Industry and Commerce that such accidents were not matters of chance but subject to management control.

"Organisations cannot assume that employees have the foresight of a prophet and the agility of an acrobat," he said. "Managers and directors should assume they are dealing with an under-performing employee on an early shift on a foggy January morning on his first day back after the new year break with a headache." It was no longer acceptable to attribute the causes of accidents to human error alone, as if such a statement provided a complete explanation and demanded no further action.

"Organisations must recognise that they need to consider human factors as a distinct element which must be assessed and managed effectively in the control of risk. This does not detract in any way from the need to give equal consideration to the technical factors. What is required is an integrated approach."

Reilly: demanding more safety inspectors

BA at fault for cockpit emergency

BRITISH Airways maintenance procedures are criticised in a report on a near disaster in which a pilot was sucked through an aircraft windscreen.

Captain Tim Lancaster was saved only when crew members hung on to his legs and the co-pilot managed to land the BAC 1-11 without injury to the 81 passengers. An investigation found that a fitter had used the wrong bolts to secure the windscreen, which fell off at 17,000ft, 20 minutes after take off from Birmingham airport in June 1990.

In the report by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch, the Civil Aviation Authority is also criticised for failing to monitor BA's maintenance, and air traffic controllers who did not treat the emergency with the urgency it warranted. The Malaga-bound aircraft made an emergency landing at Southampton after the incident over Oxfordshire.

The report to Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary, concludes: "The windscreen fitting process was characterised by a series of poor work practices, poor judgments and perceptual errors each one of which eroded the factors of safety built into the method of operation."

Mistakes made on an earlier installation were not spotted and old and new bolts were mismatched, says the report, which makes safety recommendations to prevent a repeat of the emergency.

The report says there was no back-up procedure. A final inspection would probably have detected the error, which was blamed on inadequate care.

Doctors take cool view of traditional thermometer

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Services Correspondent

THE thermometer is one of the family doctor's most traditional tools, yet nine out of ten do not know how to take a patient's temperature properly, according to a survey.

The notion of medicine as an exact science, still fondly held by many patients, is questioned by the survey, published in the *British Medical Journal*. It shows that some general practitioners regard accurate measurement of a patient's temperature as a quaint practice of little importance, although others use it as a daily aid to diagnosis.

Of the 113 GPs who responded to the survey, conducted in Surrey, one in seven never uses a thermometer, and one in 12 does not have one.

Conventional medical wisdom has it that the presence of a fever and its pattern and magnitude can give valuable clues to the nature and severity of a patient's illness. Yet this view is apparently shared by a minority of GPs.

Only one in five uses a thermometer more than twice a week. Fewer than one in ten keeps the instrument in place long enough to get an accurate reading. Glass thermometers containing mercury, the commonest type, take at least three minutes to stabilise but more than half the doctors allow only up to a minute.

Not all appear to have the same aim in mind when popping the mercury bulb under the patient's tongue. Two confessed to using it as a way of keeping patients quiet. Two more use it as a delaying tactic to gain thinking time.

After removing a thermometer, the doctors are less fastidious than they could be, a third giving it only a quick rinse under the tap. Six admitted that they never cleaned it in spite of the obvious risk of cross-infection when transferring it from mouth to mouth.

The question of hygiene may become pressing in the light of the journal's recommendation, in a leading article, that infants' temperatures be taken rectally, the routine practice in Europe. The method is more accurate than placing the thermometer in the armpit, which fails to detect fever in more than a quarter of cases when measured in hospital and up to three quarters when measured at home. The leader says that it is also less disturbing for the infant than having the arm pinioned to the trunk for several minutes.

"Taking rectal temperatures, like some other continental practices, offends Anglo-Saxon sensibility, but it's time for this prejudice to go," the journal concludes.

Church and hospital lose multi-million King's Cross windfall

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Church of England and St Bartholomew's hospital, London, yesterday lost a multi-million pound windfall expected from the proposed £4.5 billion redevelopment of King's Cross station, north London.

The Court of Appeal overturned a High Court judge's ruling two years ago that the hospital trustees and the Church Commissioners had a right to buy back from British Rail and National Carriers 52 acres of prime development land at 1850s prices.

The ruling, which may be challenged in the House of Lords, is a blow to the hospital and to the church. The latter would have used the money to raise clergy stipends.

Sir Douglas Lovelock, the first church estates commissioner, said that the commissioners would consider the implications of the ruling. He added that those affected would be the clergy. "We are not talking here about an immediate source of income, but rather a stock of capital which, at the end of the day, might produce additonal income for clergy stipends."

Andrew Campbell, solicitor to the special trustees of St Bartholomew's, said that the trustees were disappointed with the decision, and that they needed time to read it and to decide what to do. He was unable to give details about how the money might have been spent.

The land was compulsorily purchased under the Great Northern Railway Act 1846 to make way for train lines. In 1849 and 1850, Bart's was forced to surrender 43 acres, for which it was paid £53,250. The Church Commissioners sold nine acres, also under compulsory purchase powers. The land is part of a 125-acre site to the north of King's Cross station which has been earmarked for an ambitious development, including a Channel tunnel rail link terminus, offices, shops, 1,350 homes and a 35-acre park.

Under the High Court's buy-back ruling, Bart's and the church could have purchased the land at the original price of about £1,100 an acre and then sold it at enormous profit. However, their hopes were dashed yesterday when Lords Justices Nourse, Taylor and Stuart-Smith allowed an appeal by the landowners, BR and National Carriers.

Lord Justice Nourse said that if the earlier decision had stood, the hospital and the church would receive "windfalls of vast proportions". It was true that the Great Northern Railway Act, under which the land was compulsorily purchased, gave a right to buy back at the initial price. However, that right had been repealed by subsequent legislation, either under The London and North Eastern Railway Act 1935 or the British Transport Commission Act 1949.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said that he allowed the appeal "without regret". He said: "If anyone is to receive a windfall of vast proportions, no doubt St Bartholomew's hospital and the Church Commissioners are among the most deserving recipients. But the fact is they each received the full building value of the land in the 1850s, and, with proper investment and management, they should now have investments representing the inflated value of the land they sold."

If British Rail and National Carriers lost their appeal, they would have to part with land, for which their predecessors paid full price, for "a mere trifle" of its present value, he said.

Bart's and the Church Commissioners were told to pay two thirds of the other side's legal costs. They were refused leave to appeal to the Lords, but can apply direct.

BR and the developer, The London Regeneration Consortium, said they were "very pleased" with the ruling.

Global villager: Pukatire, chief of Pukanu village in Brazil, with Anita Roddick, head of The Body Shop, in London yesterday when he discussed selling the company Brazil nut oil under its Trade Not Aid scheme

Raid aims to halt fake Ford car parts

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

INVESTIGATORS believe they have put an end to a counterfeiting ring trying to flood Britain with fake spare parts for the seven million Ford cars in the country. Ford last night warned drivers to beware of fake components that could prove dangerous.

Trading standards officers say they uncovered an operation to ship bogus parts made in Turkey, Brazil and Argentina to shops and distributors in Britain. They included brake, steering and electrical parts.

Ford said: "Our best advice is to buy only Ford-approved parts from franchised dealers or through proper distributors. With components involved in areas like brakes and suspension, motorists should not take a risk buying cheap components."

Trading officials and Ford representatives raided premises in Haringey, north London. Police are investigating.

Motoring, L&T section, page 7

'Sleeping' JPs agree to retrial

A bench of magistrates dismissed themselves from a trial yesterday after barristers for the defence claimed that two of them had fallen asleep, one in the morning and afternoon, and another in the afternoon. The Lord Chancellor has ordered an investigation.

David Boswell, presiding magistrate, and his colleagues Pamela Kings and Terence Dunn, stepped down at Hull magistrates court. John Astbury, clerk to the justices, denied that two magistrates had fallen asleep but said they had agreed to a retrial because "justice had to be seen to be done".

Paul Williams, aged 28, and his brother Shaun, aged 24, both of Hull, who had denied public order offences, were granted conditional bail. The retrial will take place on April 23.

Killer, 70, jailed

A man aged 70 was given two life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday. Zdzislaw Kolsek was found guilty of the manslaughter with diminished responsiblity of his wife Marguerite, aged 70, and of the attempted murder of his stepson, Anthony Pollock, aged 51, who had tried to save his mother.

Appeal fails

Danny Morrison, former Sinn Fein publicity director, lost an appeal against conviction and eight-year jail sentence for aiding and abetting the false imprisonment of an RUC informer.

Siege gun heralds war show

By Alison Roberts

A SHOT from a 17th century saker siege gun today will herald the opening of the English Civil War exhibition, the first touring display of arms and armour organised by the Royal Armouries based at the Tower of London.

The exhibition, sponsored by *The Times*, will open to the public tomorrow in Hull, where it will run until May 31. In late April 1642, Charles I was refused entry to the city and access to its arsenal for use against the Parliamentarians. A letter to Charles I from Sir John Hotham, who shut the king out, is on display outside the Town Docks museum in Hull.

The exhibition, which is travelling to four other key civil war sites, aims to show how the troops on both sides fought, and to dispel misconceptions about their arms and armour. It promises to be an exciting and educational part of the 350th anniversary celebrations.

The ornate armour worn by Charles I, known as "Gilt Charlie", will be on show. Other prize pieces from the Royal Armouries' collection include 18ft pikes, described by the 17th century Irish magnate Roger Boyle, first Earl of Orrery, as "sharp to enter, and when entered, broad to wound with".

Tomorrow's *Times* will include a 12 page supplement on the outbreak and impact of the civil war.

هكذا من الأصل

British Psychological Society

Truth drug hastens Alzheimer cures

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE truth drug scopolamine, much loved by thriller writers and used for prisoner interrogation during the second world war, is helping to test possible treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

It has the ability to create the classic symptoms of the brain destroying illness, Keith Wesnes told the annual conference of the British Psychological Society at Scarborough yesterday.

Volunteers injected with the drug are given potential treatments for the disease and the effects on the symptoms are analysed.

Scopolamine brings on memory loss and lack of concentration and attention. Dr Wesnes, who works for the privately funded Cognitive drug research company in Reading, said the effects were similar to drunkeness without the euphoria.

The patient returned to normal six hours after the tests without side effects. Some guinea pigs had taken seven doses without problems, he said. At least one drug, Tacrine, is undergoing clinical trials in the United States as a result of tests carried out with his methods.

Dr Wesnes said the tests cost the drug companies a fraction of the time and expense of setting up trials with Alzheimer sufferers. Such analysis could take up to three years and cost £10 million. His test could be completed in three months much more cheaply.

He first considered the possibility of scopolamine as a PhD student in the early Seventies, but only began working seriously with it four years ago.

The drug is used today by doctors as an anaesthetic premedication and in travel sickness pills as it produces drowsiness. In larger quantities, as administered by Nazi interrogators in Alistair MacLean's novel *The Guns of Navarone*, it can result in euphoria and hallucinations.

Dr Wesnes said that the drugs tested so far using his method were not a cure-all for Alzheimer's disease, but would help delay the onset of its worst effects.

☐ Children as young as nine are worrying about their weight, according to research carried out by psychologists at Leeds University. Their findings indicate that two out of three nine-year-olds are unhappy with their size.

Girls want to be thinner, even to the point of serious dieting, and boys are looking to add more beef to their frames, says Andrew Hill, a psychologist with the academic psychiatric unit at the university.

In a paper to be delivered to the psychological society conference today, he says that their research indicates that nine-year-olds are under the same social pressures as adolescents and adults. "It has highlighted the early emergence of the perhaps unrealistic body weight preferences in girls."

It was worrying that girls "on the verge of the greatest physical development of their lives" should wish to take their weight into the opposite direction to nature.

"Body shape discontents and attempts at change have long been recognised during adolescence," he says. "However, recent evidence suggests that these feelings and practices are filtering down to children in the early throes of pubertal development." People are becoming obsessed with weight, he adds.

The psychologists surveyed 213 girls and 166 boys at three West Yorkshire middle schools. On average the girls wanted to be 15 per cent lighter while the boys wanted weight increases of 10 per cent. The boys' desire to be heavier was not for fatness but for a more athletic and muscle build, Dr Hill says.

Children who wished they were thinner said they were significantly more likely to refuse food, to try to eat less at meal times and to eat slimming foods.

Health, L&T section, pages 5, 6

Builders sued over 'shoddy' homes

BY RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S fifth biggest house building company, Ideal Homes, is being sued by a group of London Docklands residents who claim that their homes are so shoddily built that it would be cheaper to demolish and rebuild them.

Residents of a new development of 24 homes in Beckton, east London, say that construction faults on their £120,000 homes in Tollgate Mews are the latest example of badly built new developments in Docklands.

Tony Smith, chairman of the 40-strong Tollgate Mews residents' association, said: "The main problem is that houses are subsiding. My doorstep is sinking and the drainpipes are coming away from the wall.

"My patio was flat when I put it down. Now it looks like a roller-coaster." He says that similar problems are evident in other developments in the area.

Mr Smith criticised Ideal Homes over its dealings with residents' complaints about the development, which was built between 1985 and 1987. He said: "The company did not keep us informed of the fact that they had served a writ against the sub-contractors who carried out the foundation work.

"If you accept that the problems are in the foundations, which we believe is the case, the only solution is to knock the houses down and start again. To repair the foundations would result in so much inconvenience that we would probably have to move out."

The residents' solicitor, Ian MacPherson of Nabarro Nathanson, said that Ideal Homes had been aware of the movement in the houses, which it had monitored, but that the company had refused to release details of its studies. Ideal Homes had failed to tell residents that it had issued proceedings against Westpile Ltd, the sub-contractor that laid the concrete foundations in which the trouble appears to have started.

A spokesman for Ideal Homes, a subsidiary of Trafalgar House, said that the company was making a thorough investigation into the matter. "There is very little else I can say."

The residents lodged a writ against the company in the High Court on March 16. The writ says that 24 homes have suffered from structural movement, settlement and water penetration. One gable wall collapsed two years ago because, it is alleged, of a lack of wall ties.

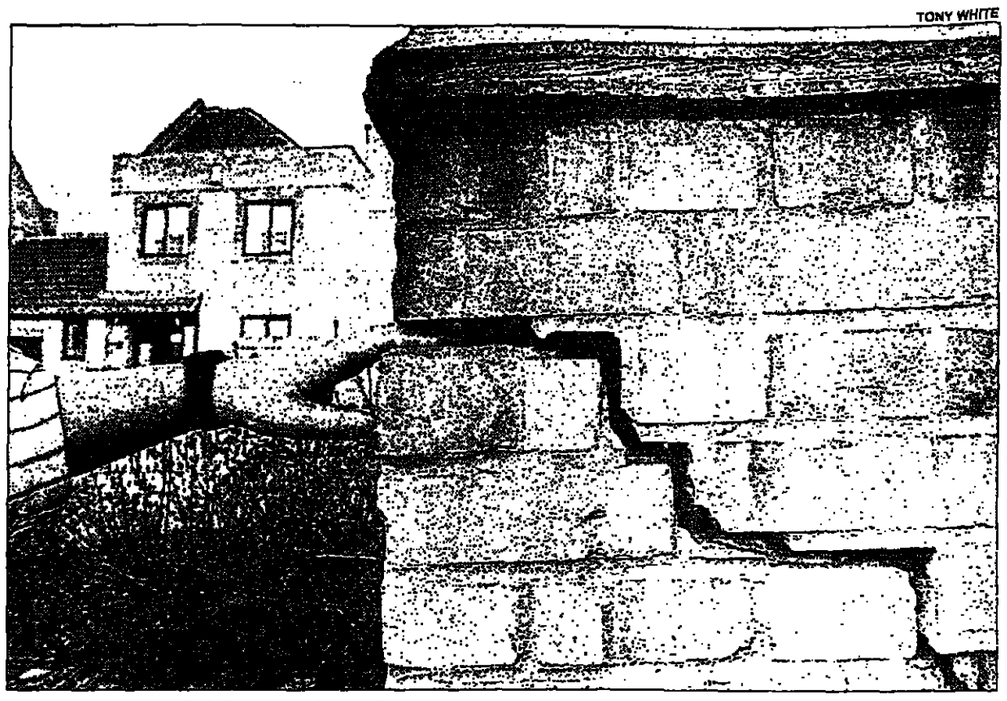
In their writ, the residents also allege that the central heating is inadequate and that the floors creak. Mr Smith said: "It's quite impossible to creep around upstairs without waking everyone up."

The residents say that Ideal Homes was negligent in failing to make the homes fit for habitation and failing to meet the requirements of the National House Building Council. They allege that the homes were not properly waterproofed at roof level, allowing water to leak in during last year's heavy snow fall. They are funding the legal action themselves and have so far spent more than £20,000.

Mr MacPherson said: "This obviously affects the lives of ordinary people who can't move until this case is resolved. They are very worried about the future of their homes. We have therefore asked for the trial to be expedited, but even so, it will take at least 12 months."

He added: "The residents are also concerned about the safety of some of the structural features of the development. One wall, for example, which is cracked, is near a public alley way and could collapse, hurting a passerby."

TONY WHITE



Widening rift: brickwork of one of the houses at Beckton that residents say are shoddily built

Squatters threaten buildings trust

BY MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

A TRUST which repairs historic buildings is expected to enter voluntary liquidation today. The troubles of the British Historic Buildings Trust began last November, when 18 houses being restored in Hanover Square, Bradford, were illegally occupied.

When the trust took on the 50 derelict houses of Hanover Square, originally rented mainly to wool merchants, many had no roofs, windows or floors. The trust put together a £2.7 million scheme, supported by more than £1.2 million of public money, to restore 33 listed houses.

Seven were sold on completion to former owners and two were bought by a housing association. Squatters occupied the next batch as they reached completion. The trust sought possession through Bradford county court but was unsuccessful.

The houses ready for occupation were priced at up to £51,000. Some of the former occupants said that they believed they would not have to pay more than £30,000. The trust denies that any price was quoted in advance and cites the difficulty of obtaining the zero rating usually allowed by Customs & Excise for large rehabilitation projects, to put them on the same basis as zero-rated new buildings.

A spokeswoman for the accountants Grant Thornton said that it had been instructed by the trust to review its financial position. Grant Thornton had advised that formal insolvency proceedings were necessary and a meeting had been called for today with a view to placing the trust in liquidation.

She said: "The squatters in Hanover Square were largely instrumental in bringing about the trust's current financial situation."

Lost Fuseli drawings could bring engineer £500,000

BY JOHN SHAW

THREE months ago a man walked into Christie's with an album of old drawings. Next week he could be up to £500,000 richer after its contents are sold in London.

The owner, a retired civil engineer living in London, did not know their value or history, according to Andrew Clayton-Payne, one of the firm's experts on water-colours, who examined the drawings at Christie's front counter in St James's. Mr Clayton-Payne found himself leafing through 58 previously unknown studies by Henry Fuseli (1741-1825), an idiosyncratic but influential Swiss artist working in England at the turn of the 19th century.

The album was acquired by the owner and his wife about 15 years ago from a coin dealer whose name they had forgotten. Fuseli's work is in great demand among museums and galleries in Switzerland and in Britain. Mr Clayton-Payne said, "but this album seems to have slipped through the collecting net".

Martin Butlin, the firm's consultant, says in a catalogue foreword to the special sale on April 14 that it contains studies of full length figures and heads including those of his wife and other young girls "merging with his fetishist preoccupation with fantastically coiffeured hair".

If the background to the album is a mystery, the name of the compiler is inscribed carefully inside the front cover. Hariet Jane Moore was granddaughter of one of the painter's closest friends and patrons, Dr James Moore. Dr Moore was the surgeon brother of General Sir John Moore, the soldier who died heroically at the Battle of Corunna.

Detail of Fuseli study, ink and watercolour

Fuseli seems to have had a soft spot for Hariet, whom he apparently knew from childhood. He gave her drawings and after his death she acquired others from John Knowles, his executor and brother. She also owned the picture "Titania and Bottom" by Fuseli, which is now in the Tate Gallery. Hariet compiled two other albums of drawings by Fuseli: the Roman Album, now in the British Museum, and a second album containing work by other artists that was sold at Christie's in 1973.

The new discovery has attracted considerable international interest. "We took it to Switzerland and the reaction there was fantastic," Mr Clayton-Payne said. "We've also had a lot of enquiries from people in this country and from America. It is a major find as well as being interesting from an art historical point of view. I think it's the find of a lifetime."

Fuseli's father, a painter, forced him into the ministry to try to give him a secure life, but he had to flee after exposing a corrupt magistrate and finally arrived in London in 1764.

Severn otter revival halted

BY CRAIG SETON

POLLUTION is thought to be responsible for halting the recolonisation by otters of rivers in lowland parts of the Midlands.

In recent years, otters have re-established themselves in the upper reaches of the Severn and some tributaries but the advance appears to have stopped in the middle reaches of the river. The National Rivers Authority and members of an otter project are conducting biological tests to discover if chemical pollutants are killing the otters or making them infertile.

Paul Hoban, otter project officer for the area, said it was suspected that a cocktail of chemicals could be flowing into the Severn from the Stour, which passes through part of the West Midlands conurbation before joining the river at Stourport-on-Severn, Hereford and Worcester. It is thought the toxic material could include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which are banned but could be leaching into the water from industrial waste sites.

The otter project is one of ten being co-ordinated nationally by the Royal Society for Nature Conservation to help re-establish otters on rivers where they were wiped out by pesticides, hunting and the destruction of their habitat. The rivers authority is helping to recreate riverbank habitats.

Mr Hoban said: "Pollution may be entering their food chain and killing them or making them infertile. They appear to be dropping into a black hole."

Biological samples would be taken from eels, the otters' favourite food. He said it was possible other factors could be at work in preventing the spread of the animal, including lack of habitat and disturbances caused by recreational activities on the river.

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Police chiefs back plan for bigger crime squads

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables have endorsed plans to reorganise the regional crime squad system in England and Wales to create a new network of five *supersquads. They would cover* the same geographical areas as the local offices of the new national criminal intelligence service, which came *into operation last week.*

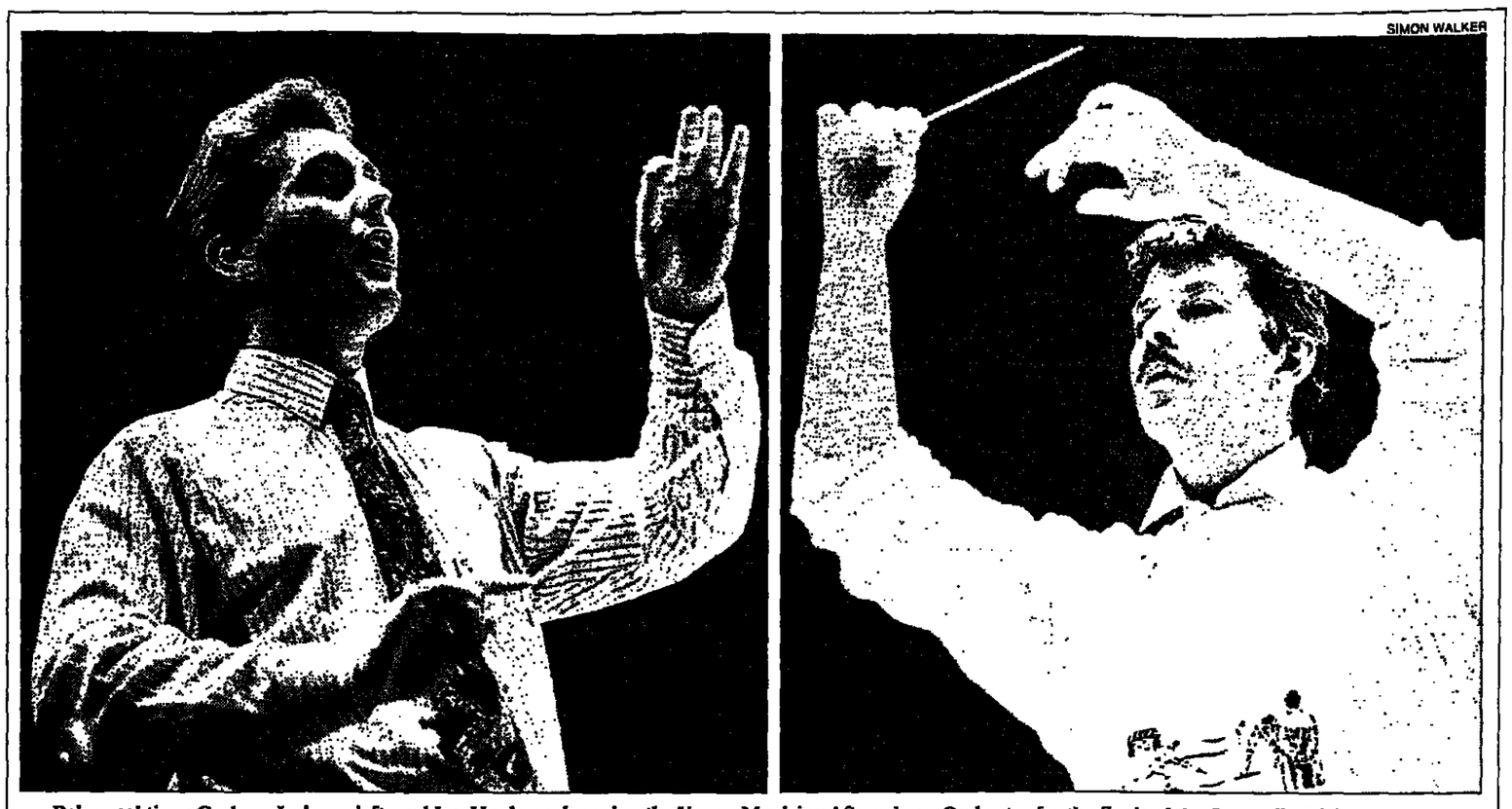
The regional crime squads cover all big crime investigations including armed robbery, drug trafficking and *serious fraud.* They were set up more than 20 years ago to deal with the phenomenon of the travelling criminal using the motorway network to commit crime across the country. In recent years their brief has widened to include kidnapping and extortion investigations.

Under the new plan the present nine squads, which *straddle force boundaries,* would be reduced to five. One would cover the whole of the South-East from the Wash to the Channel and west as far as Dorset. Another squad would include the whole of the South-West and Wales up to the edge of north Wales. A third squad would cover the *south Midlands,* a fourth the North-West and north Wales and a fifth the northern Midlands and the North-East.

Police planners hope that the new scheme will end almost two years of squabbling. Disagreements between forces and police authorities from different areas led Home Office officials to organise a conference in London last September to try to find common ground. The conference was held in private as police commanders and councillors argued over the proposals.

Other plans have been criticised because Welsh chief constables have argued that one squad should cover much of Wales. *In the South-East,* local authorities were worried that too many resources would be drawn into London and that they would be paying *for investigations that did* not concern their areas.

No extra staff are likely to be recruited to the squads, which would have a total manpower of 1,300 officers drawn on secondment from forces for a period of years. Under the plan, four of the regions would be run by a detective chief superintendent and the South-East would be under the control of an assistant chief constable or its London equivalent.



SIMON WALKER

Rehearsal time: Graham Jackson, left, and Ian Hughes rehearsing the Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra for the finals of the Donatella Flick conducting competition at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, on Wednesday and last night. The competition is funded by a Swiss-based charitable organisation

Children catch the pet bug

BY CRAIG SETON

ANOREXIC millipedes, lethargic praying mantis and off-colour spiders are becoming more common as people choose exotic invertebrates as pets.

The British Small Animal Veterinary Association says that its 3,300 members are increasingly being asked to treat pet insects that include butterflies stick insects, cockroaches, tree crabs and crayfish. Sick worms, sea anemones, snails and spiders are also regular visitors to vets' sugeries.

The association discussed the responsible ownership of invertebrates at its annual congress in Birmingham. Mary Brancker, president of the Veterinary Invertebrate Society, said one possible reason for the growth in insect ownership was because children found them more interesting than cats or dogs. While dogs and cats needed boarding during holidays, families could take their pet insect with them or ask a neighbour to check their container temperature.

Miss Brancker, a retired vet, added: "They will allow a person who normally looks after them to do things like picking them up that a stranger could not. You do get a rapport and it is more exciting to get a rapport with an invertebrate."

Traffic flow study

Analyst favours urban road tax

BY MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A TAX levied on private motorists for using scarce road space in congested urban areas would reduce transport costs for all road users, including motorists paying the new tax, according to a leading traffic analyst.

Some motorists would be forced off the roads by the tax but average speeds for those remaining would increase significantly, according to research by Martin Mogridge. Public transport would also become more efficient.

Dr Mogridge, senior researcher in the transport studies group at University College London, said that because road space in congested cities was free, road users made more use of it than they would were they charged for doing so. If motorists had to pay user charges, marginal road use would be reduced or eliminated, resulting in a more efficient use of road space.

Motorists who continued to drive would benefit from reduced fuel consumption and travelling times while public transport would provide a much better service.

Traffic engineers had traditionally been able to increase the efficiency of the road system by introducing innovatory traffic management techniques such as urban clearways, one-way systems, no right turns and phased traffic lights, effectively increasing the number of vehicles with which the road system could cope. However, increased vehicle numbers, growing hostility towards road building in urban areas, and the limited scope for squeezing additional capacity out of roads would lead to motorists being compelled to accept the introduction of new road taxes or road pricing, he said.

Traffic management techniques had also increased the number of vehicles involved in traffic jams while increasing the dangers of a series of traffic jams joining up and reducing large urban areas, such as central London, to a state of gridlock.

"As efficiency increases so the redundancy is removed from the road system," he said. "At the limit there is no redundancy. If anything goes wrong there is no capacity left for the road to absorb traffic which needs to be diverted around the jam."

Dr Mogridge said that increasing the capacity of central London roads had not improved average traffic speeds. Increased road capacity released supressed demand for car travel, reducing demand for public transport.

Walkers fight to save high points

BY RONALD FAUX

NATIONAL park wardens in the Lake District are campaigning to save many of the concrete pillars used by Ordnance Survey map makers to mark the area's summits.

Space satellites have made redundant many of the estimated 6,000 trig pillars in Britain but the voluntary wardens hope to preserve up to 100 of them in the Lake District as historic monuments or as cairns to help fell walkers to navigate in bad weather.

The OS needs to retain only about 330 of the 6,130 trig points but Derek Lyon, chairman of the Lake District wardens, believes that some should be given listed status because of their significance in the landscape. Others could be "adopted" and maintained by volunteers.

"They are extremely valuable, particularly on undulating fells that lack any major features. In mist or bad weather it is mightily reassuring to come upon a trig point that tells you precisely where you are," Mr Lyon said.

Some are built of stone with pictorial guides pointing to the surrounding summits. Most are simple concrete plinths that require maintenance to protect them from wind and frost. "Hill walkers are very fond of them and are very willing to help keep them in good condition," Mr Lyon said.

Trig pillars have saved lives and are held in high esteem by ramblers. A survey of the Lake District pillars will continue throughout the summer and already the Ordnance Survey has received hundreds of letters from people hoping to adopt a trig point.

"People hold very strong memories of hilltops, either for romantic reasons or for some particular association. Some trig pillars are aesthetically pleasing, strong features on the landscape." Mr Lyon said. But it is as navigational marks that they are most highly prized. The pillar marking Scafell Pike in the Lake District tells mist-bound wanderers that they are standing at 977m on England's highest summit.

Islanders take to the sea against hospital downgrading

A Roman Catholic canon is leading a maritime protest by Hebridean families, reports **Kerry Gill**

FIVE HUNDRED people from *some of the most far-flung islands in* Britain are to embark on a 100-mile journey by land and sea this weekend to protest at the downgrading of their local hospital.

The protesters, who will be led by Canon John Angus Galbraith of St Peter's Roman Catholic church on South Uist, have spent £6,000 to charter the Hebridean Isle, the ship that will carry them from the North Uist port of Lochmaddy to Stornoway on Lewis.

Once the islanders arrive on Lewis they are expected to march on the *islands' health board headquarters* where they will demand that acute *surgery facilities at Daliburgh hospital* on South Uist, suspended for more than two years, be restored. Daliburgh hospital serves about 8,000 people on the islands that *include North and South Uist,* Benbecula, Barra, Eriskay and Vatersay. Patients needing surgery at present have to be flown to Stornoway, Inverness or Glasgow.

The Western Isles health board has been told by the Advisory Committee on Medical Establishment that the acute surgical workload at Daliburgh was not enough to justify *the retention of a consultant surgeon.* The committee said that about 100 acute operations a year would be the amount necessary to *retain a surgeon. Most recent figures* show that fewer than 20 acute operations a year were carried out at Daliburgh.

Canon Galbraith, chairman of *the Daliburgh action group, said:* "This goes back to 1989 when acute *surgical facilities were suspended by* the health board without consulting the people. The board opted for the hospital being served by GPs with appropriate skills but virtually everybody *wants the suspended service* restored. We decided the only way to make our protest was to take it to Stornoway and that meant chartering a ship."

He said the islands' geography was at the centre of the problem. "It can be very severe weather in winter time. There are very bad storms and the islands can be cut off quite *easily," Canon Galbraith said. The* protesters have the backing of *Frances Macfarlane, the Scottish* National party candidate, and Sam Galbraith, Labour's Scottish health spokesman, has promised to reinstate surgical services at Daliburgh *if Labour wins the election.*

The largely Roman Catholic southern islands have always been wary of the powerful Protestant north, which includes Lewis and *Harris. Stornoway is the administrative* capital. Since they are paying for the ship charter, the protesters said they would also hand in a note to Western Isles' council complaining *about its neglect of the south.*

'Profession for rich' fears

Shortages of grants force law students to find college fees

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GROWING numbers of students are having to pay from their own pockets for the Law Society's finals course at the College of Law, the largest organisation for training solicitors in England and Wales, because they cannot obtain grants, a survey has found.

As a result, the college says, the solicitors' profession is in danger of becoming a profession for the children of the rich only. Student contributions now account for 46 per cent of total fees received, compared with 28 per cent two years ago, the survey of fees of 11,000 students found.

The percentage of total fees — on average £3,000 for the one-year course — provided by local education authorities has dropped from 64 per cent two years ago to about 35 per cent. The number of local education authorities that are providing grants to cover the whole fee has dropped from 75 out of the 116 in 1988-9 to 53 for the academic year 1991-2.

The proportion of total student fees paid for by sponsorship by solicitors' firms has more than doubled over the past three years from seven to 17 per cent. That figure, the college says, may be an underestimate because, in some cases, the money is paid via the students.

Richard Holbrook, chairman of the college's board of management, said: "Concern at the number of students who drop out before their course begins led us to look at the degree of help being provided by local education authorities.

"These figures show that while many local education authorities are doing what they can, they are using their powers under the discretionary grant regulations to cut down their support for law students. I fear the solicitors' profession is as a result of this in danger of becoming a profession for rich people's children only."

☐ Overwhelming public support for the duty solicitor scheme that covers courts and police stations, and the right of a person who is charged with a criminal offence to legal advice, is shown in a Gallup poll published this week.

The poll, carried out for the Law Society between March 26 and 31, shows that 97 per cent of people questioned feel that anyone who is taken to a police station and charged with a criminal offence should have automatic access to a solicitor.

The poll also found that 95 per cent agreed that people who cannot afford to pay for their own defence if taken to court should get free legal representation.

The findings were based on a random sample of 1,015 people nationwide. The Law Society is campaigning for measures to ensure that an adequate supply of solicitors is available to give advice and help to all charged with criminal offences.

It says that government proposals for a system of fixed fees in magistrates' courts in place of hourly rates will force large-scale withdrawals of solicitors from the duty solicitor schemes, which are already down on the numbers who took part a few years ago.

Solicitors have already indicated that they will withdraw from the schemes in at least six areas of the country, and have pulled out from duty schemes at police stations as a protest against government plans.

Women leading war on waste

WOMEN are mounting a spirited campaign to persuade manufacturers to cut down on wasteful packaging, according to the Women's Environmental Network.

The organisation, formed to educate, inform and empower women who care about the environment, emphasises not only the environmental cost of overpackaging but also that £10 out of every £65 of shopping goes on packaging.

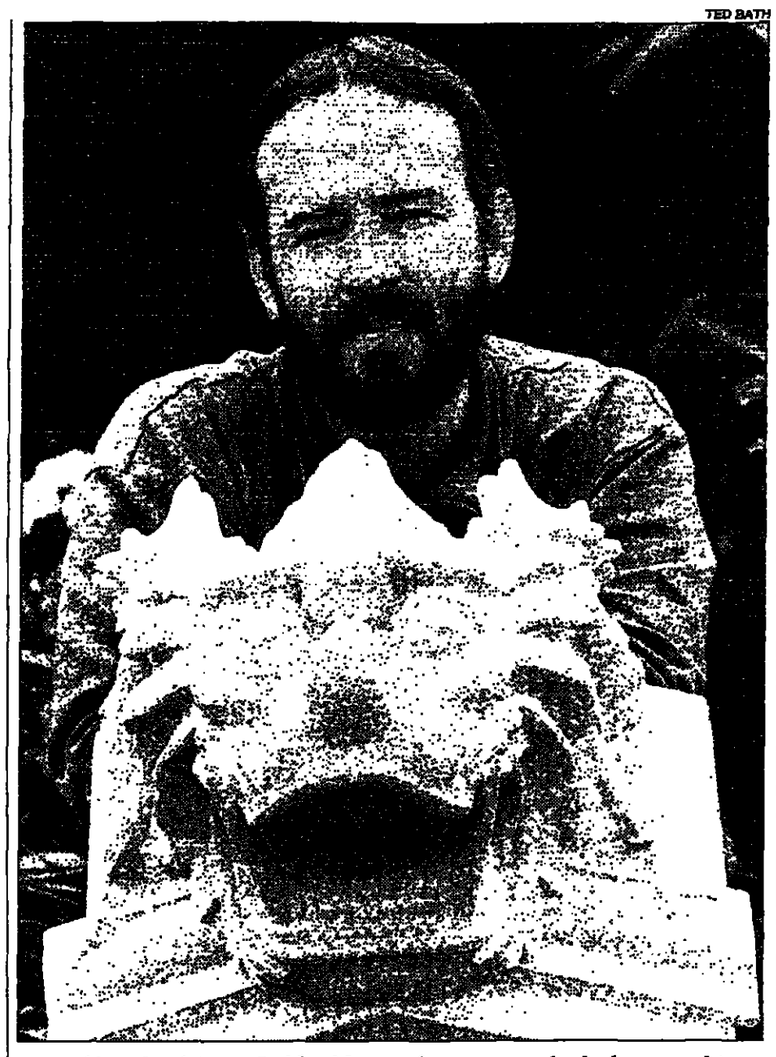
Since the second world war there has been a revolution in packaging, particularly the wrapping of foodstuffs, says the organisation, which earlier this week held a national recycling day to highlight the waste. Thousands of supporters used "return to sender" stickers to return unwanted, single-use packaging to manufacturers. Members want to reduce the use of cartons, plastic bottles and aluminium cans and to promote refillable, returnable packaging.

Ilana Cravitz, an organisation member, said that the industry had admitted that one third of wrapping was purely to enhance appearance and boost sales: "We all pay at least twice for packaging, once at the point of purchase and again for disposal, as well as in environmental costs."

Ms Cravitz said the average household threw away 45kg of plastic waste every year. Reducing packaging would conserve energy, reduce emissions from power stations, help to alleviate global warming and cut down toxic by-products of packaging materials.

Supermarkets, the organisation said, were becoming more environment-conscious, selling organic food and drink, "friendly" household cleaners and nappies, recycled paper products and giving out carrier bags made from recycled plastic.

TED BATH



Looking ahead: Peter Smith with one of seven gargoyles he has carved to replace the 450-year-old originals at Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire. The copies will be stored until the originals, which are badly eroded, have to be taken down

Solvent abuse kills record number of young people

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THERE was a record number of deaths involving solvent abuse in 1990 and more than 70 per cent of those who died were under 20, according to a report by St George's hospital medical school in London.

During that year, 149 people died after inhaling gas fuels, aerosols, glue fumes or other volatile substances. There was a marked increase in the number of deaths linked to inhaling the contents of fire extinguishers. In 1989, there were 113 deaths, which was lower than previous years. Since 1983, when figures were first collected, 1,113 people have died.

Of those who died in 1990, 87 per cent were male and 30.9 per cent were first-time solvent abusers. In almost half of cases the substance was used in a public place such as a park, shopping centre or street.

The figures show that the problem is worsening and the very young are particularly at risk. There was a big increase in the death rate for males aged 15-19. Sixteen-year-olds of both sexes accounted for 28 per cent of deaths.

Aneez Esmail, lecturer in public health medicine at St George's, said previous research showed that 3.5 to 10 per cent of secondary school children had experimented with volatile substances.

"That is lower than the figures for experimentation with cannabis or alcohol but the difference is that those things won't kill you," he said. "You can get locked up for smoking cannabis but it is still not illegal to sniff volatile substances. People are just beginning to realise now that it is an important problem."

The health department has recently sponsored a £1.4 million advertising campaign to alert parents to the dangers.

Mr Esmail said that the large increase in numbers in the North could be linked to deprivation and the recession.

Castle is viewed as town's saviour

BY CRAIG SETON

TRADERS in Warwick are turning to the town's castle, which attracts more than 600,000 visitors a year, to help to reverse a slump in business that has seen the closure of many shops and hotels.

The traders, worried that Warwick is being portrayed as a ghost town after the closure of more than 30 shops, two restaurants and two hotels, are hoping to encourage more castle visitors to leave its ancient walls and regard the town itself as a tourist centre.

A gateway has been created in the castle's perimeter wall and signs are to be set up to lead visitors on a town trail, taking in museums, the Lord Leycester hospital, St Mary's church and the market square. Plans are being discussed for a pedestrian-only scheme and a Sunday market for specialist traders.

The traders have formed a new organisation, Renew, standing for Regeneration is needed in Warwick. David Way, a shop owner and one of its members, said that colleagues were worried that without a revival scheme parts of the town would remain an eyesore. They believe that the success of cities including York and Bath as thriving tourist centres indicate what Warwick could achieve.

The grade II listed former Woolpack hotel, overlooking Warwick market square, has been boarded up for several years after a proposed retail project for the site was stopped by the property slump. "That sort of thing does not look good," Mr Way said. "We are looking at the idea of an overall strategy for the town and perhaps the appointment of a town manager. Our vision is of Warwick as a secondary shopping centre with specialist shops of character for visitors and local people." He said that there was talk of combining the town's annual classical and folk festivals into a bigger, single event.

Some traders believe that the effort to revive Warwick is drawing attention to negative aspects of the town. One said that it was being unfairly painted as a dying town, whereas many shops were doing good business. Keith Wright, vice-chairman of Warwick Chamber of Trade and Commerce, said: "We have got to convince tourists that the castle is not the only attraction in Warwick."

Falklands veteran campaigns for youth

The former Welsh Guardsman Simon Weston, who was badly burned in the Falklands war, has launched a £250,000 appeal to help inner city teenagers from his native South Wales to overcome a lack of opportunities.

The appeal is for the South Wales branch of the Weston Spirit charity, which began in Liverpool in 1987 and has an office in Cardiff. "If we can raise the £250,000 it will be a great boost for the work of Weston Spirit here in South Wales," Mr Weston said.

"I hope that we have found a way for young people to feel a part of the community. We have helped many of them face the future with a fresh and positive outlook."

Tony Hird, chief executive of the charity, said: "We have developed a track record for working with inner city disadvantaged youth. Our aim is to make them step out of their conditioning, challenge assumptions about their capabilities and encourage them to make informed choices that they may become responsible citizens."

More than 500 young people from Liverpool, Newcastle and Cardiff have taken part in projects organised by the charity including outdoor pursuits around the world and residential courses in Britain.

Chicken claim 'a turkey'

Claims that chicken is Britain's favourite meat have been challenged by the Meat and Livestock Commission. The British Chicken Information Service says that chicken dominated the retail meat market in 1991 for the fourth consecutive year.

Shoppers were said to have bought 394,000 tonnes of chicken, 323,000 tonnes of beef, 192,000 tonnes of pork and 182,000 tonnes of lamb The commission said that the figures did not take into account huge sales of burgers, sausages, bacon and ham.

Ship disquiet

The International Red Cross has questioned Britain's use of fighting hospital ships, such as the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argus, during the Gulf war. Argus was not designated a neutral hospital ship and retained a number of defensive weapon systems. Antoine Bouvier, of the legal division of the International Red Cross, said that neutral hospital ships had proved their worth over the years and had saved countless lives.

Law and order

A team of British lawyers is in Albania helping the newly-elected democratic leaders of the former communist bastion to come in from the cold. The delegation, funded by the government and the Law Society, is helping the Albanian authorities in the capital Tirana to draft electoral law, economic regulations and other legislation. The lawyers are also holding a workshop on how to run a legal practice.

Home shortage

Homelessness has reached the Falklands Islands, where a population boom has led to an acute housing shortage, forcing people to live in converted portable cabins left behind by the army after the Falklands war. Others live in converted lorry containers. Last month the YMCA opened a 20-bed hostel in Stanley, the capital, a purpose-built building intended for fishermen.

Cheap snaps

Camera prices and the cost of developing films are cheaper in Britain than almost anywhere else in Europe. Only Germans get a better deal when buying equipment, according to *Amateur Photographer* magazine.

Police say cells are filling up

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables have called on the Home Office to help to stem the rising number of prisoners held in police cells. At the end of last week the total had reached 1,817.

John Burrow, chief constable of Essex and vice-president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said that the figures dropped last year after police representations but they had now climbed again. Police feared that soon forces would not be able to cope. The worst region is the North-West where damage at Strangeways prison, Manchester, has reduced cell space.

The Home Office said that apart from Strangeways, an additional 3,000 remand prisoners had come unexpectedly into the prison system. Space was being lost because of refurbishments but some extra space would become available this month when a young offenders' institution reopened.

STEPHEN MARKESON

High-rise flap: Oscar exits 18ft up via a standard cat flap onto the stepped, floodlit, carpet-lined ramp designed by its owner Richard Lohr at their home in Shepherd's Bush, west London. The fixings will not take cat burglars or ambitious dogs

Vicars are given a telling sermon

BY PAUL WILKINSON

HAVE you heard the one about the vicar, the students and Taffy the storyteller? If you are sitting comfortably I shall begin.

The story so far: David ("Taffy" to his listeners) Thomas is a full-time raconteur who wanders the North Country from his Lakeland home enlivening pub hearthsides and village halls with his chronicles of bygone days. Now he has been asked to give trainee churchmen tips on spinning a yarn in the hope that his expertise will make their sermons a little more interesting.

The idea came from Canon Trevor Pitt of St John's College in Durham, which trains clergy for the Church of England, United Reformed Church and the Methodists. Canon Pitt first heard Taffy talking at a supper club. "I asked him to come along and help with the the ordination course at the college. Most people have a jaundiced idea of sermons as boring and not worth listening to, but that is not the case and, with Taffy's help, we can make sure the sermons grab everyone's attention. Story telling is at the heart of preaching and the telling of stories is what the Bible is about."

Mr Thomas, aged 41, said: "I will be giving them a few tips on presenting stories and encouraging audience participation. They may find it appropriate to tell stories from the pulpit using props and the odd costume. I hope that my advice will make things more interesting for the congregation."

His stories have been told in church before. One that he told to the daughter of a lay preacher was reproduced the following Sunday. "I don't mind when people retell my stories, just so long as they bring enjoyment," Mr Thomas said. "I have a few ideas to help the lectures along. I will be asking them to bring a story and then give a few hints on how to get it across."

Mr Thomas started his working life as a drama teacher, before working as an entertainer with a travelling theatre group. His £10,000 a year salary is paid from the arts budget of the county councils of Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland, partly as a way of livening up some of the more remote areas and partly as a tourist attraction.

He travels on a tricycle bearing the slogan "Stop Me and Hear One". He has 200 tales committed to memory. Most are local folk tales or stories from history but some have a modern twist including the threat to the rainforest. His lectures at the Durham college, if successful, could be repeated. Possibly a tale of a prophet finding honour in his own land?

هكذا من الأصل

Luxury goods at heart of swindle

French police foil Japanese gangsters

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

A BIG money-laundering operation, by top figures in Japan's notorious *yakuza* gangs of organised criminals, has been foiled by French police investigating phenomenal sales of Louis Vuitton leather goods and Hermès scarves.

The arrest last week of about a hundred people, almost all of Asian origin, appears to have cracked an operation that was recycling tens of millions of dollars of "dirty money" from drugs, prostitution and protection racketeering in Japan.

Like most successful scams, the "Vuitton connection" was an essentially simple affair, based on the purchase and resale of the French luxury goods for which there is an inexhaustible market in Japan. It involved *yakuza* illicit funds to buy up vast quantities of top-quality goods which were then recycled back into Tokyo department stores at irresistible prices.

Over the past three years, French police sources suggest, upwards of 400 million francs (£40 million) has pumped through a network recruited mainly among the Vietnamese and Cambodian communities in Paris.

The tip that first put investigators on the track of the operation was the regular appearance of several hundred people of apparently modest origin buying up Vuitton and Hermès products as if there was no tomorrow, every last one paying with crisp new 500-franc notes bearing consecutive serial numbers.

After close surveillance, the police decided to raid an appartment near the Place de la Madeleine, conveniently located for the main luxury stores in Paris. They discovered about 2.500 items from the Vuitton and Hermès catalogues, worth an estimated 7 million francs and about 2.5 million francs in hard cash in, what else, brand new 500-franc notes.

It subsequently emerged that the gang responsible had recruited its shoppers through small advertisements in newspapers circulating in the 13th arrondissement, the Parisian "Chinatown". A small army of buyers would report for duty every morning to receive working funds, then march back, buckling under the weight of shopping bags, to hand over the goods in return for what *Le Figaro* reported was "a slim envelope" containing their daily retainer.

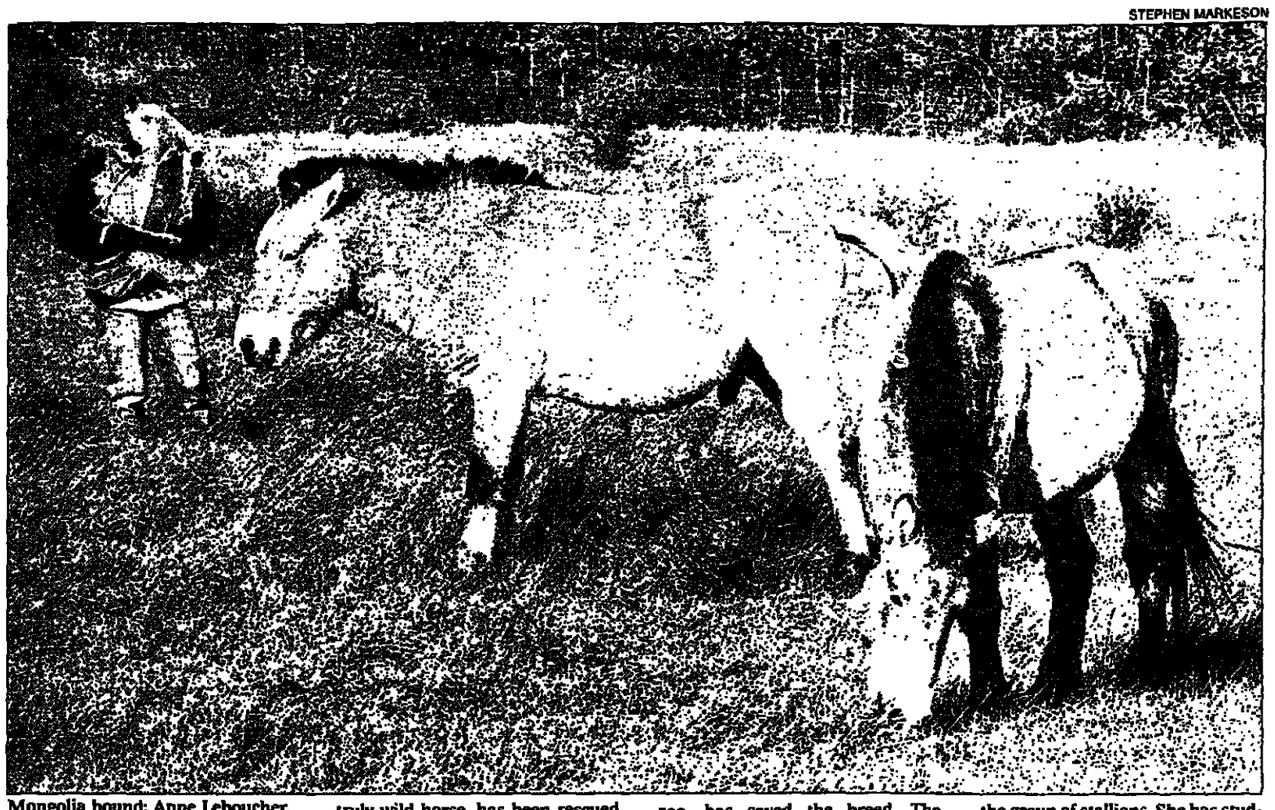
As the police swooped, bank accounts containing more than 15 million francs were frozen by official order: at the same time, a French Customs official working at Charles de Gaulle airport was arrested on charges of having provided false stamps and documents allowing the *yakuza* to shift their haul back to Japan. According to reports in the French press, Joël Dumont ensured that not a franc in duty was paid as container-loads of elegant handbags and designer scarves were shipped out.

News of this luxury ring comes at a time when the French, the Parisians above all, are decidely sensitive about the "invasion" of well-heeled Japanese tourists waving their wallets in every smart shop in town. The vast majority are legitimate tourists, but as one police investigator noted, where better to "wash" dirty money without attracting unwelcome attention?

As *Le Figaro* sees it, "*la Mafia Japonnaise*," is now poised to infiltrate France, where the existence of a substantial Asian community — mostly non-Japanese, it should be said — provides a convenient base.

A team of Parisian gendarmes is now standing by to fly to Tokyo for discussions with their opposite numbers. They are said to have been somewhat discouraged by the equanimity which the principal suspects arrested here have displayed during questioning, which apparently reflects the belief that back in Japan, a touch of *yakuza* influence will fix just about anything.

STEPHEN MARKESON



Mongolia bound: Anne Leboucher, aged 29, a veterinary surgeon from Nantes, western France, with two Prsewalski horses in a field at Goudplaat in Zeeland, southwest Holland. The Prsewalski, ancestor of the modern animal and the last truly wild horse, has been rescued from extinction by a group of enthusiasts in Holland. Native to Mongolia, the horse disappeared from the wild 25 years ago, but a controlled breeding programme, using stock from animal reserves and a zoo, has saved the breed. The project, supported by the Worldwide Fund for Nature, is so successful that the Dutch intend soon to begin reintroducing the animal to Mongolia. Mlle Leboucher has been compiling a video record of the group of stallions. She has studied the behaviour and relationship of each horse to enable her to choose those most suited to be the first to return in May to Hustain Nuruu, where 100.000 acres have been set aside by the government.

Carnogursky: even his party is split

Where breaking up is hard to do

In Czechoslovakia, men are pulling asunder what history put together. **Roger Boyes** reports from Bratislava on the chances of a civilised divorce

MANY of the fragile national marriages put together in the early 20th century are under strain and some, like Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, are coming to a close. It is Czechoslovakia, however, that presents the most interesting spectacle.

There both partners, the Czechs and Slovaks, are pulling apart, approaching the very edge of divorce and then drawing back. Should Czechoslovakia be saved?

The excitable Jozef Prokes, leader of the Slovak National Party, predicts the federation will fall apart within a month of elections in June and, at the very latest, Slovakia will be an independent state by the end of the year. That outcome rather depends on the balance of power in Slovakia after the elections.

At the moment political parties favouring divorce or legal separation are dominating the opinion polls.

They are led by the powerful Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, the populist party led by bull-necked politician Vladimir Meciar.

The Slovak National party, though relatively small, has set the agenda for the other parties: almost everybody, even the former communists, reject the present shape of Czechoslovakia.

Only Jan Carnogursky, the Christian Democratic prime minister, wants to maintain the relationship, albeit as an open marriage. Even his party has split on the issue and he stands little chance against Mr Meciar.

This quirky, charismatic man commands more than 30 per cent support in Slovakia, well ahead of the rest of the field. He has been accused of collaborating with the communist secret police, but he shrugged off the charges made by the Slovak parliament.

The marriage between Czechs and Slovaks in 1918 was based more on fear than on love. The Slovaks regarded the joint Czechoslovak state as a useful escape from Hungarian domination; the Slovaks remembered how they were almost swallowed up under the Magyars, how they lost Slovak schools, how Slovak could only be used as a teaching language during religious lessons.

Yet the Czechs, after 1918, did not regard the Slovaks as equal partners. Czech teachers, civil servants and judges moved quickly into rural and under-populated Slovakia. They edged Slovaks out of careers in the army, diplomacy and civil administration. After the war, under the communists, the balance was redressed somewhat.

The Slovaks were given their own schools and courts and, within the tight contours of the Communist party, Slovaks started to make an impact on federal politics. All this has now turned against the Slovaks. The steel foundries, mines and tank factories are heavy polluters and uneconomical.

But there is no such thing as pain-free divorce and the West will have to decide whether to support the continuation of a federal state or acknowledge the right to secede.

Burma purges 'disloyal elements'

Lecturers among thousands sacked

FROM ABBY TAN IN RANGOON

BURMA'S military government has sacked 15,000 civil servants in the latest purge of "disloyal elements". Diplomatic observers said they had counted 150 Rangoon university teachers who had lost their jobs in recent months.

Thousands of teachers have been sent to a re-education camp at the Central Institute of Public Services north of Rangoon. A four-week drill course of exercises and lectures that began there in January is said to be modelled on the rural re-education by Red Guards in China in the 1960s.

A senior academic who is a key economic adviser to the government confirmed the sackings. "The government has handled the students, the politicians and the Buddhist monks," he said. "Now it must address the civil servants who also joined the students' strike." Demonstrations by students, communists and liberals against socialist one-party rule prompted the armed forces to step in, crushing all popular dissent, when they imposed martial law in September 1988.

An army presence is evident at big road junctions in Rangoon. "Beware of underground and above ground destructive elements", declared one large billboard, while another, in front of the US embassy gate, said: "Down with minions of colonialism".

The teachers being re-educated are blamed for the behaviour of the students, the adviser said. They were on forced holiday for three years until mid-1991, when schools reopened. The military authorities again shut them down indefinitely last December, when students rallied in the streets in celebration of the winning of the Nobel peace prize by Aung San Suu Kyi, their heroine, in 1991.

The check on civil servants and teachers that decided their "disloyalty" was a questionnaire. One question asked: "Should someone married to a foreigner be elected head of state? If yes, what will be the situation of the country?" The reference to Daw Suu Kyi, who is married to a British academic, is obvious.

Daw Suu Kyi, who headed the National League for Democracy that spearheaded the demand for free elections, has been under arrest since July 1989 in her house in a Rangoon surburb. The junta said she could go free if she gave up politics, a demand she has refused.

The league won 80 per cent of the 485 seats in the national assembly in the May 1990 elections, but the junta has refused to honour the results. Many of those elected are in prison or in hiding.

Human rights groups say about 2,000 dissidents are in jail. They claim, too, that known political prisoners have been forced to act as porters for the army and made to walk ahead of troops to clear landmines in areas where rebels are fighting the central government.

Diplomatic observers say that General Saw Maung, chairman of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, has promised a new constitution to be drawn up by a national convention, obviously to be hand-picked by the military, but he has not publicly mentioned any timetable. Observers in Rangoon expect the constitution will not be introduced before the expiry of the four-year term for which league candidates were elected, providing a pretext to disqualify them from a convention.

General Saw Maung and other ministers insist that the military has no intention of clinging to power. They point out that they had power in 1958 and 1962 when they took over briefly only to hand it back to civilians once stable security had been achieved.

Since 1988, the junta has abandoned 26 years of socialism which brought Burma to economic ruin. The government in 1987 asked the United Nations to downgrade its status from a developing country to "least developed".

Vietnamese take sombre journey into their past

BY JAMES PRINGLE ON THE SAIGON-HANOI EXPRESS

A FORMER captain in the American-backed South Vietnamese army was at the railway station to see off a relative. He had served a long stint in a communist re-education camp and now lived in limbo. He had no hope of getting a job, nor of emigrating to America through an officially sanctioned departure programme. "No relatives in the US," he said sadly.

Then the South-North Express pulled out of Saigon station (which it is still called, though the former southern capital has been known as Ho Chi Minh City since 1975) on the 1,078-mile, 49-hour journey through one of communism's last bastions to Hanoi.

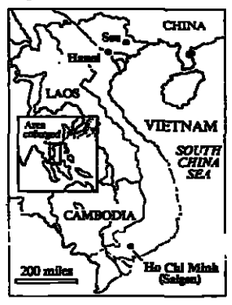
In the compartment with me were my guide and two Vietnamese engineers who were working for a Russian-Vietnamese oil venture. None were members of the communist party.

Sleeping on the floor at the end of the carriage was a former anti-aircraft gunner from the Ho Chi Minh trail, now working for a state enterprise. "He is a true communist, and there are not so many like him," said the guide. "He lives on his pittance of a salary and out of principle won't dabble in the free market."

Like the former army officer, he was one of the economic losers in contemporary Vietnam. The ones doing best are entrepreneurs, those working for joint ventures, and many peasants, following the break-up of co-operative farms.

The journey costs £71 and is a tour of old battlefields. There is little left of the American military effort, but at Dong Ha, American tanks and artillery pieces lie rusting.

As the carriages rattle at 25mph across the Bong Son plain, once one of the most dangerous areas for Americans, the landscape is peaceful. Peasant girls board in Quang Ngai to sell produce. Not far away is My Lai, scene of the mass



killings by US troops. Peasants still push their ploughs across fields behind oxen, but instead of peasant hats and black pyjamas, they wear baseball caps, T-shirts and shorts.

As we trundle across the Ben Hai river into the north, the country is suddenly different, poorer. B52 bomb craters, usually filled with water, progress alongside the track.

The diesel engine judders to a halt 15 miles from Hanoi. We have hit a young man hurrying to the market to sell tomatoes. He is dead. In less than ten minutes, we are on the way again. After two days and nights, we arrive in Hanoi feeling sombre, like the overcast weather of Vietnam's capital.

Rising generation: Deng Xiaoping, left, the senior leader, maintains his influence through Deng Pufang, his son, who travels abroad as the head of China's welfare fund for the handicapped

China's old guard seeks political immortality through 'princelings'

Ageing revolutionaries are trying to keep their influence by nepotism to the infuriation of ordinary people, **Catherine Sampson** writes in Peking

IF YOU happened to be flicking through the official Who's Who of China, perusing the pictures of those who hold power, you might be struck by the similar jaw lines of two men surnamed Chen. What the official Who's Who does not tell you is that the Chens are father and son.

Chen Yun, at 86, is the country's arch-conservative economist. Chen Yuan, his son, is vice-governor of the People's Bank of China. The Chens are just one example of the way in which Chinese leaders keep it in the family.

Increasingly elderly and frail, the veteran revolutionaries are bidding to keep their political influence alive through their children, who are known as "princelings". Foreign governments see the "princelings" as conduits to their parents and possible future leaders. There is no identifiable "princeling" clique, but there is considerable potential for them to evolve into an interest group.

A paper submitted the United States Congress last year identified 57 Chinese in influential political and economic positions who had risen on the coat-tails of their parents. They included Li Peng, the prime minister, and the adopted son of Chou En-lai, the former prime minister.

Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, aged 87, rarely leaves his private residence but keeps his grip on power with the help of his children. He no longer meets foreign visitors, but his children have become his emissaries. Wherever they travel abroad, the Deng offspring are welcomed. Many Chinese suspect that it was Mr Deng's children who persuaded him earlier this year a make a rare public trip to southern China to defend his reforms.

Deng Rong, his youngest daughter, is her father's personal assistant and interpreter. In 1990 she went to Tokyo with Yang Li, the daughter of President Yang, and was received by Japanese leaders. The two are also reported to have travelled together to Singapore, Hong Kong and other countries, acting for their fathers who are close allies.

Deng Nan, another daughter, is vice-minister of the science and technology commission. Deng Zhifang, his son, works for the capitalist-style International Trust and Investment Corporation. He has held talks with Kim Il Sung in North Korea. Deng Pufang, a second son, has travelled to Hong Kong and other countries as the head of China's welfare fund for the handicapped. His image is sullied by persistent reports of corruption.

On the rare occasions that Deng Xiaoping surfaces, he does not let just anyone take his photograph. His personal photographer is Yang Shaoming, the son of Mr Deng's old friend President Yang. The choice of Yang junior is believed to have less to do with his artistic prowess than with security. It is much safer if the hand pointing a camera at you can be trusted not to pull a trigger.

The clans running China have made sure that the guns are in the right hands. President Yang, who is in day-to-day control of the army, has chosen Yang Baibing, his younger brother, to head the People's Liberation Army's general political department. He Ping, Deng Xiaoping's son-in-law, is deputy director of that department, which is in charge of China's arms sales.

Three other "princelings", all the sons of veteran revolutionaries, run Polytechnologies, an arms-dealing company. He Ping and Deng Nan are among the seven "princelings" who are tipped to be promoted to the central committee at the Communist party's five-yearly congress later this year.

The "princelings" have had the sort of upbringing of which the masses could only dream: mansions, servants, cars and special schools. They were the first to be allowed to go to university after the Cultural Revolution. In the past ten years, they have risen quickly through the ranks to positions usually reserved for people decades their senior.

The political and economic privileges enjoyed by the "princelings" infuriate ordinary people. Such nepotism is a feature of traditional feudal Chinese rule, but sits uneasily with the propaganda of the Communist party.

After the killing of pro-democracy demonstrators in 1989, hardliners made an effort to quell public resentment by declaring that they would limit severely the activities of the children of officials. The only people affected were the offspring of lower level officials. Not one of the children of top leaders suffered.

Father's footsteps: Li Peng, left, prime minister and son of Chou En-lai, who held the same post

Low-caste Indians learn to be free

Christopher Thomas meets a Brahmin teaching Untouchables to break free of their chains

Mukesh Kumar, aged 14, a Dalit (Untouchable) born into servitude because his parents are bonded labourers, is learning rebel songs. "We will change India," he sang. "We will make gold from mud. We will go to every home and show the way."

He has been freed from bondage. From virtual slavery at a stone quarry he has found his way to a place called Mukti Ashram, a one-acre retreat in the village of Ibrahimpur on the outskirts of Delhi. Here, for the first time in his life, he is learning that he is equal to others.

The man telling him so is a high-caste Brahmin. "It's heady stuff," Kailash Satyarthi says. "After coming here, Untouchables go back to their villages and cause all sorts of trouble for the local bigwigs. They stir up other Untouchables into demanding their rights.

"They insist on going into temples and using the same wells and village taps as everybody else. The landlords are shocked. Other Brahmins regard me as something of a traitor."

Mr Satyarthi, who created Mukti Ashram, says its objective is "total liberation — economic, social, political, mental and cultural".

He went on: "These people come here as timid, browbeaten Untouchables who are too frightened to talk to anybody they regard as caste superiors. Three months later they are changed people.

The idea for Mukti Ashram (mukti means "liberation") was born when it was realised that former bonded labourers were ill-equipped to handle freedom. Theoretically the government gives each freed labourer 10,000 rupees (£200) to acquire the means to earn a livelihood, such as a cow, a bullock or a village shop. In practice all or part of the money is usually siphoned off by corrupt bureaucrats.

Mukesh Kumar says his parents are still bonded on a stone quarry because of a long-standing debt to a landlord. "We break up rocks into small stones. We are paid 15 rupees (31p) for a truckload. My mother, father, and brother take a whole day to fill one truck."

Bonded labour is illegal under a 1976 act. But the law is widely ignored because of a pervasive nexus of bribe-taking between landlords, politicians, bureaucrats and police.

Bishops urge church to fight sexism

New York: Sexism is a moral and social evil that the United States Catholic Church should fight, a committee of bishops said in a pastoral letter.

But Sister Phyllis Price of New York said the letter will always fall short if the bishops continue their ban on women priests. "It is the dysfunctional system in the church that is the problem," she said. *(AP)*

Buffer agreed

Geneva: A Liberian rebel leader has said here that peacekeeping forces could set up a buffer zone between Liberia and Sierra Leone within 15 days. Charles Taylor, the rebel leader and Amos Sawyer, the president, signed an agreement earlier. *(AFP)*

President to go

Islamabad: Benon Sevan, the UN mediator, told European ambassadors a transitional Afghanistan government replacing President Najibullah's should be in place by April 28, sources here said. Dr Najibullah would leave the country. *(AFP)*

Gallows price

Nicosia: Ayatollah Morteza Moqtadaei, Iran's chief justice, says *diyeh* (blood money), has risen eight-fold. The murderer of a Muslim man can now ransom himself from the gallows for 70 million rials (£600,000 at the official rate). *(Reuter)*

Angola's free-market line is cut off

Angolans grasp economic realities better than the central bank, which is confident of low inflation, and the government, confident of re-election, **Sam Kiley** writes

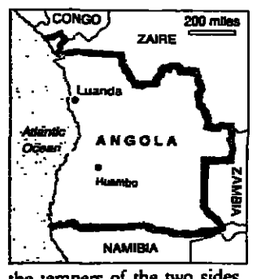
THE ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) will soon drop all references to socialism in its publications and remove the words "workers' party" from the end of its official title.

But the message of the free market has yet to get through to Enatel, the state telephone company in Luanda, which uses singularly stalinist methods to persuade people to pay their bills. Enatel does not bother with warning notes and red letters, British Telecom style. In fact they do not send bills at all.

Instead, every now and again, a batch of numbers will get cut off for non-payment of non-bills. Then it is up to the telephone user to go to the company, beg for a bill and beg Enatel to accept payment. One might go years before getting caught out, but Enatel gets you in the end. This week it has been the turn of the embassies.

Already taut, diplomatic tensions caused by ambassadors desperately trying to persuade the opposition Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) and the government not to restart their civil war, have been stretched to breaking point testing both the endurance of their excellencies and their diplomatic skills.

The Belgian, Portuguese, French, Italian and other envoys have been disconnected and ambassadors now have to drive around town delivering messages in person. Beyond coping with Luanda's 100 per cent humidity and



the tempers of the two sides seeking power in Angola the real test for the ambassadors is how to get the phone reconnected without paying for everyone else. They know from Lusa, the Portuguese news agency, that Enatel will load errant international charges on to the accounts of the rich and foreign, showing a fine regard for the redistribution of wealth and none for customer relations.

To stop this the Portuguese rely on grand letterheads and flamboyant signatures from their ambassadors. The Belgians boast that they have a better technique and have stationed a man at the equivalent of Telecom House eight hours a day for two weeks to lobby on their behalf. Both remain telephonically incommunicado. "It will be some time before we feel the benefits of the changes we have pressed so hard for," said one ambassador. The efficiency promised by the market has also yet to enter the sacred realms of the pink seafront *fin de siècle* National Bank of Angola where Soviet-trained economists have been involved in some eccentric money-supply control that will bring nothing but hyperinflation to Angola.

Mandarins in the central bank did not realise, when they promised a one-for-one swap of new for old local currency (the kwanza) in September 1990 but gave only 5 per cent on cash and 8 per cent on bank accounts, that there were more popular ways to squeeze the money supply.

José Eduardo dos Santos and his government soon did. With an election due in September, Mr dos Santos promised to return all the money extracted from the *povo* (the people), as well as to catch up with the ten months of back pay owed to 100,000 civil servants and pay off the 100,000 soldiers being demobbed over the coming weeks by printing tons of money. Mr dos Santos may feel that this earns brownie points with the electorate as it anticipates its first-ever free elections.

While the central bank is confident of a stable currency and low inflation and the government of re-election, the *povo* have a better grasp of economic realities. In the past few days they have been queuing round the block to get their cash out of the banks and into secure investments like fridges and hi-fi equipment before inflation erodes their pay packets to nothing.

All this insecurity has been good news for British security firms run by former British SAS officers in Angola, and for former Gurkhas as they have formed a lucrative alliance offering protection for anyone with something worth stealing, ranging from the British embassy to the state-run Endiana diamond-mining company. Last year's British defence cuts slashed the number of Nepalese fighters serving the Crown by more than half to 2,500.

But the world's best-known and best-loved mercenaries, who have been employed by the British since the early 19th century, are now to be seen patrolling the streets of Luanda and policing the diamond mines of the northeast for about twice what they earn from the British.

In the Angolan capital, where muggers are armed not with handyman's knives but AK47 rifles, and shots disturb the clammy air every night, the British embassy is guarded by four smiling Gurkhas in black baseball caps armed with their traditional heavy kukris, well suited to decapitation. Paid about £400 a month by a British company, Defence Systems International Limited, they already speak better Portuguese than their bosses.

Attack on Quebec leads to demands for ban on book

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

MORDECAI Richler, the Canadian novelist, is under fire from his home province of Quebec for a book of non-fiction which one MP wants suppressed.

Oh Canada! Oh Quebec! — Requiem for a Divided Country is an outspoken treatise on Canadian political life, with special reference to the xenophobic nationalism which Richler believes is tearing at Quebec. It is so harsh that a Québecois MP rose in the House of Commons last week to urge that it be banned under Canada's hate-literature laws. The request fell on deaf ears.

Jewish by birth — some of his most acclaimed novels, including *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, are about the lives of Jewish families in Montreal — Richler reserves his most caustic criticisms for what he sees as a streak of anti-Semitism running through Quebec's history and public life. He denounces Lionel Giroux, an intellectual force in the province in the 1940s and 1950s, and a nationalist hero to many Quebecers, as a "virulent anti-Semite" and a fascist. But what really stirred the pot was Richler's characterisation of *Le Devoir*, Quebec's most influential daily newspaper and a kind of icon to millions of French-Canadians, as an integral part of the alleged anti-Semitic tradition.

To help promote his book, the author broadcast an interview in which he said that, during the 1930s, *Le Devoir* was "interchangeable" with *Der Stürmer*, the notorious Nazi weekly personally directed by Hitler to spread lies about a Jewish plot to take over the world. Stung by the reference, Lise Bissonnette, publisher of *Le Devoir*, ran a signed editorial castigating Richler for defaming not only those now associated with the newspaper but the families of former editors as well.

Richler's book is an expansion of a devastating 31-page article he wrote last year for *The New Yorker* magazine, in which he ridiculed Quebec's notorious sign laws which prohibit outdoor advertising signs in any language other than French. What Ms Bissonnette calls the "real, necessary, intense" anger felt by Quebecers is not likely to be mitigated by Richler's suggestion that many are descended from prostitutes imported by a 17th-century administrator "to satisfy the appetites of his mostly functionally illiterate soldiers".

Firm sends greetings from beyond the grave

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

CARDS from Beyond of Fairport, New York state, has come up with an elegant solution to a worry which throughout the ages has nagged those who are about to die: how do you send greetings cards to your loved ones after you are gone?

For $25 (£14) per year, the firm is offering to send cards to the near and dear of the departed on special occasions well into the next century.

"Just think," says its advertisement, "you passed away months ago and yet on every occasion that is important to those you left behind . . . they receive a beautiful card expressing your warm and loving thoughts to them."

Imagine the pleasure of the bereaved when the postman brings a tasteful birthday card with the real signature of the departed — signed, of course, in the pre-death period. "On this special day in your life," the card said, "take joy in the fact that those of us who have gone on before would give anything to be in your shoes."

Customers may wonder, however, about the potential for confusion in the matter of anniversaries.

هكذا من الأصل

Strike threat as Bonn turns down public sector pay rise

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

TO THE dismay of the Bonn government, an arbitration panel yesterday said Germany's 2.3 million public-service workers should be given pay rises of 5.4 per cent at a cost of DM20 billion (£7 billion).

The non-binding ruling was immediately rejected as "economically untenable" by Rudolf Seiters, the interior minister, but the workers' union is threatening to bring public services to a halt if the government refuses to negotiate on the figure when the two sides meet on Monday.

The government, struggling to drag inflation down from its ten-year high of 4.7 per cent, is desperately anxious for a low settlement in the sector, which traditionally acts as a trendsetter for the rest of industry. It has offered the workers 3.5 per cent in reply to their 9.5 per cent claim and hoped that the arbitration panel would consider 4 per cent adequate.

The government's low offer would cost about DM13 billion. Even this is scarcely affordable, given that estimated public borrowing this year will reach DM180 billion, driving up interest payments on the national debt to DM100 billion, which is equivalent to almost a quarter of the federal budget. All this contributes to inflationary pressures and makes it less and less likely that the Bundesbank will be prepared to even consider a reduction in interest rates until late autumn — and only then if there is an unlikely reduction in wage settlements.

Yesterday's arbitration recommendation immediately increased union determination to fight for a higher settlement and encouraged postal and rail workers to press on with claims for 9.5 per cent. Even more worrying for the government is the fact that skilled workers in the engineering industry are also seeking 9.5 per cent. They are certain to want more than the public sector and have the industrial muscle to fight for it.

Union militancy is running high anyway following last weekend's settlement for 450,000 white-collar employees in the banking sector. Bank workers staged the first strikes in postwar history to force a deal which, with other concessions, they say is worth 6.4 per cent. Earlier in the year steel employers gave in without a fight and paid 6.34 per cent to foundrymen who had voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action. These deals mean that unions generally expect settlements averaging about 6 per cent this year.

Kohl sees red over bananas

Bonn: Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, left for his Easter health-cure holiday yesterday, but not before sending an angry letter to Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, in Brussels. It concerned bananas (Ian Murray writes).

To Herr Kohl's outrage, the European Commission has proposed a new banana import quota to come into force from next year. The quota would also put a 20 per cent import duty on all fruit coming in from Germany's main suppliers.

The German consumer association has protested that the plan, which they say is largely for the benefit of France to protect producers in its Caribbean islands, will cost Germans DM1 billion (£350 million) a year. It will make bananas an unobtainable luxury for east Germans who never saw them under communism.

Final journey: members of the Palestine National Army carry the coffin of one of the three crewmen who died when the plane carrying Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, crashed in the desert in southern Libya on Tuesday. The PLO office in Jordan said the two Palestinians would be buried in Amman today. Mr Arafat, bruised and bandaged, left hospital yesterday, Libyan health authorities announced. The official news agency, Jana, reported that Mr Arafat, aged 62, left Misrata almost 24 hours after being rescued in the Sahara desert and would recuperate in Libya. Doctors said that the Palestinian leader was in good health. (Reuter)

Gadaffi tries to divide the West

Tripoli woos Paris but the drive for sanctions is still on, **Richard Beeston** writes from Cairo

COLONEL Muammar Gadaffi, the Libyan leader, may be attempting to divide the international coalition against him by offering to cooperate with France in its investigation into the bringing down of a French airliner while continuing to defy America and Britain over the Lockerbie bombing.

So far Libya has relied on its traditional Arab and Islamic supporters to fight back diplomatically against the West. But, with little sign of a breakthrough in mediation efforts, and only days to go before the April 15 ultimatum for Libya to comply with United Nations Security Council resolution 758 or face a ban on air links and arms sales, Tripoli seems to have embarked on a last-minute campaign to seek French sympathy.

Western diplomats first suspected the Libyan ploy this week, when Tripoli sent a letter through the Arab League to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, in which it repeated its offer to send two Libyans accused of the Lockerbie bombing to a neutral third country, but refused to allow them to stand trial in America or Scotland.

The Lockerbie offer was dismissed outright by British officials and was described by Brent Scowcroft, the American national security adviser, as a time-wasting tactic. He said Tripoli was attempting to find any way it could of "avoiding complying with the United Nations resolution".

But observers pointed out that, in addressing the question of the bombing of the UTA airliner over Niger in 1989, the Libyans appeared to be more flexible and had offered to meet French demands that four Libyan suspects should travel to Paris to be interrogated by a French investigating magistrate.

A Western diplomat said yesterday that the Libyans had displayed a new willingness to comply with the French demands and that this was seen as a tactical manoeuvre.

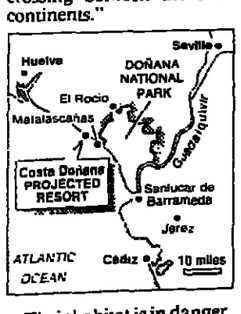
Despite Colonel Gadaffi's manoeuvring, however, one diplomat said: "The French have made it clear that we are all in this together, that it is 'all for one and one for all'."

Resort plan puts birds in danger

European conservationists are angered by a tourist development project in southern Spain which threatens to destroy a bird sanctuary. **Edward Owen** writes from Madrid

EUROPE'S biggest nature reserve and one of the remaining unspoiled stretches of Spanish coastline is threatened with tourist development, and many British migratory birds could lose a feeding ground as a result.

For millions of birds migrating from Africa to Europe, the huge Doñana national park in southern Spain is a vital feeding and watering station. Laurence Rose, senior international officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "Hundreds of millions of birds like to feed and get their feet wet at Doñana after a long Sahara crossing. It's crucial for British birds, from the common swallow to the rare black-tailed godwit, because the reserve is near the Strait of Gibraltar, the shortest sea crossing between the two continents."



Their habitat is in danger of destruction by property developers who want to build a resort near the reserve. The park's wildlife also includes some rare species such as the imperial eagle and the Iberian lynx.

But there is hope following a report by 11 international experts on a development strategy for the park. European conservationists have welcomed the report, which was commissioned by the regional Andalusian government in Seville, and recently launched by Manuel Chaves, president of Andalusia.

The report, ordered after protests from ecologists at the Costa Doñana project, took a year to prepare and compares the scheme to the old fable of the goose and the golden eggs, because it would devastate its main *raison d'être*, the bird sanctuary. The report proposes total protection for the Asperillo dunes, where the 32,000-bed resort is planned with golf courses and sports facilities, and advises against urban development.

Mr Rose said: "My immediate reaction is that the report is very, very positive." His society helped the Spanish Ornithological Society spearhead a campaign to save the 400 square miles of wetlands, woods and dunes west of the Guadalquivir river estuary. "My message now to Chaves is to put his money where his mouth is. He said he would abide by what the experts said."

Mr Rose said the Costa Doñana project, reportedly backed by local businessmen connected with the Expo '92 world fair in Seville, completely misunderstands the value of Doñana's wildlife, scenery and villages. The area has already been blighted by Matalascañas, a ramshackle coastal development from the Franco era.

Javier Castroviejo, a biologist and former park director who is president of the Friends of Doñana Association, said: "The report is a good declaration of principles, but has no legal effect. It states what we and many others including the European Community have been saying: if you take the water from the park to run the resort, the wetlands disappear."

The report calls for a £237 million investment programme in the region by Spain and the European Community with the emphasis on ecological tourism with accommodation in village inns and farmhouses, and better organised visits to a better managed park.

Delors scolds Twelve for straying from righteous path to unity

Reynolds: referendum could spell confusion

Jacques Delors is again upset with EC leaders for letting him down over the Maastricht treaty and so much else. **George Brock** reports.

JACQUES Delors is again upset with the European Community's recalcitrant governments and their habit of letting him down.

The president of the European Commission has been scolding the Danes for going cold on the Maastricht treaty on political and monetary union, which may not pass a referendum in Denmark in June. M Delors also chided EC foreign ministers earlier this week for their failure to discuss seriously a bigger EC budget for the 1990s.

When his officials report to the EC summit in Lisbon in June on the future enlargement of the Community, M Delors told the European parliament this week, governments are in for a shock. Nobody, he complained, has thought about how an EC double or treble its present size would function.

The EC's self-absorption of last year, as its legal draftsmen argued in Brussels about the small print of the treaty, has rapidly evaporated and been replaced by morose speculation about wider developments in Europe. The year 1992 is not turning out as the *annus mirabilis* of European unification that was once imagined.

Danish referendums traditionally resound to protests about Brussels robbing their parliament of its sovereignty, but this campaign is going badly for the pro-treaty coalition government. The latest opinion poll registered 36 per cent in favour of rejecting Maastricht and 32 per cent for accepting its terms. The government's most powerful argument for ratification — that otherwise Denmark would have to withdraw from the EC just as the rest of Scandinavia joins — has just over three weeks left to work to reverse the trend. Albert Reynolds, Ireland's prime minister, now faces a referendum on the treaty which has become inextricably entangled with the divisive issue of Ireland's law against abortion which is in potential conflict with EC-guaranteed freedom of movement between countries. Mr Reynolds is hoping to outmanoeuvre anti-abortionists by asking his country to ratify the treaty before tackling abortion.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and President Mitterrand of France, chief sponsors of the talks which created the Maastricht deal, are plainly nervous that allowing Ireland to renegotiate a footnote will open the door to wider demands for treaty changes. With growing German misgivings about a single currency and fresh French worries about allowing foreigners to vote in local elections in France, both leaders fear that the treaty could unravel before it even comes into force.

The Maastricht summit allowed John Major to exclude Britain from new EC social charter laws: Labour leaders have said that they will opt Britain back in at the first opportunity. Since 11 states are on record as wanting Britain to come into line, Neil Kinnock could hardly be refused a new "intergovernmental conference" which is a legal requirement for changing the treaty. In the present sour atmosphere, the governments will tie themselves in knots trying to justify allowing Britain a revision which most will want to deny to all others. "We will try to arrange things in such a way that a change would not look like an amendment to the treaty but a re-ordering," one French source said yesterday.

The sour mood stems from a dawning sense that Maastricht did not settle the great questions which confront Europe. The closer integration contained in the treaty, due to come into force next January, was arranged without any adjustment for the expansion of the Community to include not only Scandinavia but also Eastern Europe which most of the continent now believes inevitable.

Abortion talks, page 20

Delors: warning words for rebellious Danes

Fears grow over power of military

Russia and Ukraine patch up fleet truce

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA and Ukraine yesterday edged back from confrontation over the Black Sea fleet, although their dispute over control of the ships remained unresolved.

Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, told deputies that he and Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian leader, had agreed, after two telephone conversations, to suspend the conflicting decrees on the status of the fleet which they had issued this week.

Sergei Shakhrai, an adviser to Mr Yeltsin, was expected to leave for Ukraine last night for talks on a confrontation which has brought relations between the two republics to their lowest point since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

At the fleet headquarters in the Crimea, officers said they had been assured that that Mr Kravchuk and Mr Yeltsin would soon meet face to face in order to settle the ships' fate. President Kravchuk complained earlier that military chiefs, such as Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov and Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, who has returned to Moscow after fruitless talks with Ukrainian officials, enjoyed more power in the new commonwealth than political leaders.

In Moscow, reformist Russian politicians and army officers issued a warning that preparations to establish the republic's own defence forces — which will soon incorporate most of the former Soviet military — had been placed in the hands of hardliners with a history of opposing President Yeltsin. At a meeting of liberals and moderate nationalists, the commission entrusted by the Russian leader with setting up a defence establishment over the next month was denounced as a nest of conservatives, including supporters of last August's failed putsch.

Galina Starovoitova, a presidential adviser and the commission's only woman member, said she was considering resigning. She said she had been alarmed to hear Marshal Shaposhnikov say this week that defence policy would be based on the importance of "power and wealth". Oleg Kalugin, a retired KGB general, said the new Russian intelligence establishment was scarcely different from its Soviet predecessor.

Arms depot burns

Yerevan: Exploding shells detonated by a fire at an arms depot belonging to the 7th Army of the Commonwealth of Independent States forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes yesterday, officials said.

A spokesman for the commonwealth armed forces initially blamed the blaze, north of here, on a bomb attack by Armenian extremists. But Victor Salomatin, head of the commonwealth's administration department, told Tass that an attack by Armenian militants "was just one version of the accident, and it is being investigated together with other possible causes".

At least seven people were injured and the authorities evacuated up to 400,000 residents of the villages of Balaovit and Migut as well as some districts of the Armenian capital, the Interfax news agency said. The evacuees are being housed in local government buildings.

The authorities said that the depot housed "classic" weapons. *(AFP)*

Casting a cold eye: Cossacks from the Don region listen dispassionately at yesterday's Congress of Russian People's Deputies in Moscow. The congress adopted a statement expressing concern over human rights violations in Moldavia, which declared its independence last August

Yeltsin issues warning to congress

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian Congress of People's Deputies appeared to be balanced on a knife edge yesterday evening, after a day of behind-the-scenes bargaining between supporters and opponents of President Yeltsin's government failed to produce a compromise.

Mr Yeltsin was reportedly insisting that he continue to combine the posts of president and prime minister and retain the right to appoint ministers. His opponents were demanding that he step down as prime minister and allow parliament to approve government appointments.

Yegor Gaidar, the first deputy prime minister, was called twice to defend the government's reforms, once during the public session, when he angrily accused his opponents of ignoring economic reality, then again during the lunch break when he answered questions from deputies.

The previous evening Mr Gaidar had said that he and the government would resign if Mr Yeltsin was forced to step down as prime minister. Yesterday Mr Yeltsin was apparently threatening to resign as prime minister and take the issue of his special powers to a referendum if the opposition prevailed at the congress. According to Galina Starovoitova, an adviser, he was even prepared to dissolve the congress and annul the deputies' mandates.

In the lobbies these threats were widely regarded as part of the overall bargaining. Most deputies are too scared of new elections to risk provoking the dissolution of the congress. By evening, a new congress resolution was said to have been drafted, preserving the sharp criticism of the government from an earlier draft, but allowing Mr Yeltsin to keep some of his special powers on certain conditions.

The conditions were believed to include an acceptable division of portfolios in the new government. Until the names of the new ministers are announced, however, it will be unclear how much Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gaidar have had to retreat, if at all.

Some of the more optimistic reformists suggested that the impasse had come about not because Mr Yeltsin and his government were in serious difficulties, but because the opposition was searching desperately for a face-saving formula to present to its constituents.

Aleksandr Shokhin, a deputy prime minister, told reporters that the resignation of the government would frustrate reforms and force a retreat. It would also place at risk the West's promised economic help. "If government reshuffles and an abrupt change to the current course were to begin," he said, "the promised $24 billion (£13.7 billion) would be lost."

Briton appointed to key Nato post

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FIELD Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, Britain's top military commander, has been appointed chairman of Nato's most important planning and co-ordinating body, the military committee.

The appointment of the chief of defence staff, announced in Brussels yesterday, is only the third time it has gone to a British commander in 25 years. It comes on the eve of a meeting of Nato chiefs of staff and their counterparts from eastern Europe, the former Soviet republics and the Baltic states.

Last week defence ministers of the new 33-member North Atlantic Co-operation Council agreed to discuss military planning and strategy and to arrange joint exercises. Today the chiefs of staff of the 33 countries will begin that process at Nato headquarters in Brussels.

Sir Richard's appointment followed a strong challenge from General José Charlier from Belgium. At a similar meeting last year, the chiefs of staff failed to choose between the two.

Sir Richard, who took over as chief of the defence staff in April last year, will succeed General Vigleik Eide, Norwegian chief of staff, early next year. His appointment will last three years. Since the new post is a full-time job, he will resign as chief of the defence staff.

The military committee co-ordinates defence planning and other Nato issues. Sir Richard began his military career in 1950 when he enlisted for national service with the Royal Artillery.

He has a reputation as a clear-thinking strategist and has held senior appointments at the Army Staff College, Royal Military College of Science and the ministry of defence.

He was appointed master general of the ordnance in 1983 and later became vice-chief of the defence staff. He was the first to be appointed chief of the defence staff without having been head of one of the armed services.

● **Mediterranean force:** Nato is to establish a new permanent naval force in the Mediterranean by the end of this month, the chiefs of staff decided yesterday. In the past Nato has deployed a fleet in the Mediterranean only on an *ad hoc* basis, notably during the Gulf war last year.

A Nato official said the new permanent fleet of six destroyers and frigates from Greece, Turkey and Italy would be based at Naples.

Serb advance sows panic in Bosnia

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO

AN AIR of panic hung over Sarajevo yesterday as the third Bosnian town in a week fell to Serbian forces. The attack on Zvornik, 50 miles to the northeast, provoked Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, to accuse the Yugoslav army of passivity in the face of the Serb attacks.

The frontier town of Zvornik, which lies on the main Sarajevo-to-Belgrade road, was captured by a militia led by a commander known by his *nom de guerre*, Arkan. A week ago a highly trained squad of Arkan's men seized thetown of Bijeljina. Yesterday the Serb-dominated federal army took Kupres after clashes with Bosnian-Croat forces.

Arkan's militia, which officially comes under the command of the Yugoslav army, has eight tanks but there have been no reports of them being used in Bosnia. The rapid capture of Bijeljina and Zvornik was achieved with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, a lorry-mounted anti-aircraft gun and a commando squad of 150 men. Ill-trained and poorly armed militiamen have been swept aside by Arkan's soldiers, hardened on the battlefields of eastern Croatia.

By taking Bijeljina and Zvornik, both predominantly Muslim towns, Serb forces have seized control of two of the main roads from Bosnia to Serbia. Yesterday afternoon Bosnian radio reported panic in Visegrad, the third main frontier crossing, and fighting was reported around the town. The objective appears to be to carve out the frontiers of the proclaimed Serbian republic in the south, physically linking it with Serbia proper and the Serb-controlled territories within Croatia.

While the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army in the north and south of Bosnia is clearly backing its kith and kin, its role in Sarajevo itself has been far more ambiguous. Muslim politicians speculate that a significant part of the military could be persuaded to defect and become the core of a national Bosnian army.

هكذا من الأصل

Tsongas stands aside as Democrats board Clinton bandwagon

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PAUL TSONGAS yesterday announced that he would not re-enter the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, and a big effort began to get the party hierarchy to set aside its doubts and unite behind a battered Bill Clinton.

Mr Tsongas won a remarkable 29 per cent of Tuesday's New York primary vote without even campaigning, and acknowledged that he came "pretty close" to reviving the candidacy he suspended last month. However, he virtually admitted that Mr Clinton had sewn up the nomination with Tuesday's victories by saying that he did not want to be reduced to the role of "spoiler".

The former Massachusetts senator urged his supporters to cease their efforts on his behalf, but he refused to endorse Mr Clinton and gave a stern warning that the party had to adopt his austere economic message to have any chance of winning.

"I intend to have my voice heard," he declared at a Boston press conference. "Hear me well, Democrats and Republicans. The old ways of taking this country into economic ruin and social chaos are over. The people of America are ready for a new resolve ... Don't turn your back on this great energy that must be deployed to rescue America for ours and generations to follow."

Mr Tsongas said he had won over independents and moderate Republicans with his unorthodox pro-business message. He urged his party to adopt it before it was seized by Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire and probable independent candidate. The low turnout by uninspired Democrats in Tuesday's primaries "has to be terrifying" the party, he said.

Mr Tsongas was telephoned on Wednesday by Ron Brown, the Democratic party chairman, who argued the mathematical improbability that he could overtake Mr Clinton, who now has 1,267 of the 2,145 delegates that are required for the nomination.

Tsongas: insists on his pro-business message

Mr Brown, who is anxious to focus the Democrats' fire on President Bush, and Mr Clinton's aides also began making calls to senior Democrats in Washington to urge them to declare for the Arkansas governor. What would finally dispel all talk of late entrants and brokered conventions would be for Mr Clinton to win the support of the 772 "super-delegates" — mostly congressmen and party officials — who go to July's nominating convention unpledged.

Those who received calls included Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas and Mario Cuomo, New York's governor, both of whom have been cited as possible alternatives to Mr Clinton.

New York exit polls showing nearly half the Democratic voters doubted that Mr Clinton had the honesty and integrity to serve as president underscored the anxiety of the party establishment, but there appeared to be a growing consensus in Washington that those doubts had to be set aside.

Stars and stripes: a black and white off-the-shoulder dress the by designer Arnold Scaasi modelled in New York this week at his autumn 1992 showing

Highway sinners see the red light

From the glee in my wife's voice when she phoned me at the office I knew that something bad had happened.

The state of Virginia had sent me a letter, she chortled. "Our records indicate that your accumulated demerit points under Virginia's driver-improvement law require you to attend a one-hour group interview," she read out. "At the interview you will have the opportunity to review your driving record and information will be provided on ways to improve your driving habits." Failure to attend "will result in the indefinite suspension of your Virginia licence or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in Virginia".

I had been stopped for speeding in Maryland in 1990, and again in Idaho last year. America may have the world's highest crime and murder rates, and may be the land of the automobile, where driving is the most inalienable of rights, but violate a traffic law, however minor, and you will be summarily sat upon by the nanny state.

There were 25 of us in the sin-bin on Washington's outer fringes that night. Doctors and dentists, teachers and lorry drivers, crooks and housewives. We were made to pay a $15 (£8.50) fee. We were each issued with a computer print-out headed "Abstract of driver history record", which listed our convictions. On cue, Karin Doolittle, our instructor, marched in cheerfully. She spoke for 55 minutes without hesitation, repetition or deviation on the finer points of driving and also on our own miserable shortcomings.

Last year Virginia summoned 210,000 drivers to group interviews. The programme, begun in 1974, has not produced any statistics to show its effectiveness so far.

Indeed, one participant left the meeting so exasperated that he screeched out of the car park straight into an oncoming car.

Martin Fletcher

De Klerk to meet head of the OAU

Abuja: Saying he was on "the most important visit of my career", R.F "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister, has begun talks in Nigeria's capital with Ike Nwachukwu, his Nigerian counterpart.

Mr Botha is heading an all-white delegation to pave the way for the arrival late yesterday of President de Klerk, who will have talks with President Babangida, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity. *(AFP)*

Deal approved

Tokyo: North Korea's parliament has approved ratification of the agreement signed in January with the International Atomic Energy Agency to permit inspection of the country's secret nuclear factories. *(Reuter)*

Editor charged

Colombo: Sri Lanka has filed charges against the editor of a left-wing newspaper and a former senior police officer who claimed that more than 1,000 people were killed by government-backed death squads in 1988-89. *(AP)*

Intake to be cut

Canberra: Australia may cut its intake of immigrants because of the poor state of the economy. Paul Keating, the prime minister, said rising unemployment was behind the move. *(Reuter)*

Remains faked

Hanoi: Le Chi Tam, chief of police in a Vietnam village, sold animal bones, tree roots and soil to local authorities as the remains of soldiers killed in the war, the *Evening News* here said. *(Reuter)*

Limit extended

Sydney: An Australian court has extended the time limit beyond the statutory six years for nuclear test site workers to claim for injury. The government now faces its first such claim. *(Reuter)*

Rabbi accused

Jerusalem: Yitzhak Halamish, Israel's chief prison and police rabbi, has been suspended. He is accused of abusing his position, notably by allegedly charging for marriage services. *(AFP)*

PEOPLE

Dutch flower power given royal touch

Queen Beatrix unfurled the flags of 23 participating nations to open the Floriade '92 horticultural extravaganza, billed as "The Greatest Flower Show on Earth", in Zoetermeer, in the heart of bulb-growing region of The Netherlands. The show is expected to attract 2.5 million visitors during its run.

□

President Bush, **President Aylwin** of Chile and **Cardinal Cahal Daly**, archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, will be among those receiving honorary degrees at the University of Notre Dame on May 17.

□

Sali Berisha, aged 47, leader of the Albanian Democratic party, was elected the country's first non-communist president by an overwhelming majority in parliament.

□

The Pope has set up a new foundation to help the poor in Latin America, to coincide with the 500th anniversary of **Columbus's** discovery of America. It will be financed by $1 million (£570,000) left over from a fund established by **Pope Paul VI** in 1969.

□

President Biya of Cameroon appointed **Simon Achidi Achu** as prime minister, government radio said.

Japanese housewives lament falling shares

As the Nikkei stock index dropped more than a quarter, **Joanna Pitman** *in Tokyo counts the human cost of deepening recession*

A MISERABLE little group of housewives, taxi drivers, weary salarymen and even the odd long-haired student yesterday stood huddled outside the window of a securities broker in Tokyo, gloomily peering in and witnessing their fortunes draining away, apparently unchecked.

As the flashing red digits relayed from the world's largest stock exchange indicated another day of severe losses across the board, they watched share prices fall to a 5½-year low. Japanese shares have shed 56 per cent of their value since their peak in December 1989.

"I feel like crying," a distressed woman said. She explained between loud sniffs how she had invested all her savings in 1986 in the newly privatised Nippon Telegraph and Telephone company, the world's second-largest corporation and the undisputed housewives' favourite for investments. She had bought a single share for 3.18 million yen (£13,826). Last night the company's shares closed at 590,000 yen making her share worth less than a quarter its original value.

Undeterred through the falling markets of the first three months of this year, she had hung on to her shares in the belief that the financial authorities would step in and support the Tokyo market, as they have done on such previous occasions as the world stock market collapse of 1987. Her anguished cries for guidance, now that her investment has slumped to yet another nadir, reflect Tokyo's desperate mood. Many believe that the financial authorities, in the form of the Bank of Japan and the omnipotent finance ministry, could step in on any day and arrange for the market to be propped up. They are not doing so because, it is alleged, they are punishing the more speculative elements of the Japanese financial world for their greed and opportunism perpetrated during the boom years of the late 1980s.

Skeletons are tumbling out of the cupboard. On Wednesday the Tokyo district court declared Mitsuhiro Kotani, a stock speculator — a Michael Milken of Japan — bankrupt. He was at the centre of a share-manipulation scandal which directly involved doubtful business practices by Japan's most prestigious banks and financial companies.

Mr Kotani's bankruptcy, which involved debts of 124 billion yen, was the second-largest after the 410 billion yen insolvency last year of Nui Onoue, aged 61, a former waitress and restaurant owner, who managed to persuade the Industrial Bank of Japan to lend her 240 billion yen. Ms Onoue, who used the money for rapacious investments in the stock market, under the guidance of a Buddhist healer, is now in jail suspected of procuring illegal underworld loans. Sympathisers believe that Ms Onoue and Mr Kotani, like Milken, the former junk-bond king, are scapegoats for the trouble caused by business practices long condoned.

Now that the stock market has fallen by more than 25 per cent since the beginning of this year and is showing no signs of slowing, the financial executives of Japan's ostensibly invincible corporations are spending sleepless nights, wrestling with the question of how much damage is being inflicted on their business.

However, all is not lost. The financial authorities still have the health of the Japanese financial system at heart and will not allow the Nikkei average to fall to a point where it could be damaged irrevocably. "They intend to make the greediest upstart elements of the market really suffer before they come in and rescue the markets," a former senior manager at the Industrial Bank of Japan said. "We may have to wait until the summer or the autumn."

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Nikkei dive, page 21

Imelda says she will face jail to bring home Marcos body

IMELDA Marcos said yesterday she would defy a government ban and bring to the Philippines this weekend the body of her late husband, former President Ferdinand Marcos (Abby Tan writes from Manila).

"I am willing to go to jail for it," the former first lady was quoted by her lawyer, Antonio Coronel, as saying after the government said it would not allow the body to return until after the presidential election on May 11.

In a statement, the government of President Aquino said: "We cannot risk any disturbance in public order at this time when emotions are high as the result of the election campaign."

Mrs Marcos, who is a candidate in the presidential race but is given only a small chance of success, said the ban could only mean that the government was afraid for the prospects of Mrs Aquino's candidate, Fidel Ramos, a former defence secretary.

Marcos died in Hawaii in September 1989 and is kept in a refrigerated crypt. He was exiled after 20 years' rule as the result of a people power revolt in February 1986.

Exiles' return hangs on Iran poll

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TEHRAN

MORE THAN 20 million Iranians vote today in an election overshadowed by the threat of violence between moderates and Islamic hardliners who fear it will further diminish their influence and weaken Iran's anti-Western stand.

The poll is the culmination of the power struggle between the two main factions in Iranian life. A success for supporters of the pragmatic President Rafsanjani would not only woo Western investment but also the thousands of educated Iranians who fled the excesses of Islamic zealotry.

Some 90,000 members of the "disciplinary forces" will be on duty to prevent clashes at the poll, the first since the death of Ayatollah Khomeini began the gradual process of softening the image of the theocratic republic he founded in 1979.

The radicals, whose leading candidate is Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the mastermind behind the Lebanese Hezbollah (Party of God), allege that voting lists, and even the eventual results, are all being rigged to push them to the sidelines.

Although Western governments are as anxious as President Rafsanjani to see the hardline majority in the 270-seat parliament disappear, there are fears that radicals might then resort to violence to back their charge that the revolution is being sold out.

"This election is the most important ever held here. It is being pitched as much to win back exiles with their expertise and hard currency as towards foreign governments hoping for a fresh approach", said one ambassador. "Of course, if the radicals do better than predicted, it will all backfire."

Another younger European envoy explained: "Since I arrived seven months ago, all my Iranian friends are returnees from the West. Frankly, they are more sophisticated than I am, and see this place as somewhere to escape the recession and make money."

Rafsanjani: hoping for influx of hard currency

Mohtashemi: claims that ballot is rigged

So far the rate of return has been a trickle, but there are hopes that it could turn into a flood if the zealots loose their grip on parliament, their last bastion of power. Already new villas are beginning to spring up in fashionable parts of north Tehran and hotels are planned on a scale not envisaged since the Shah was overthrown.

One well dressed middle-aged woman, who returned recently from Paris, said: "Behind the curtains of our homes, we can live almost as we want. There is whisky, caviar, Western videos and much less fear of being found out by the 'dress and morals' patrols. If the moderates win, things should get even better."

In advance of the vote, whose result will not be known until next month, Brigadier-General Muhammad Sohrabi, the police chief, has made a surprise announcement that draft dodgers who fled during the 1980-1988 war with Iraq can now buy a legal return for $16,600 (£9,500).

The controversial offer, bitterly opposed by the radicals, is a bid by the government to lure back exiles to make use of their foreign education and hard currency investments. The money, equal to about 30 years' earnings at the current minimum wage, will be kept as a deposit and returned to those who relent and complete the two-year term of military service.

The hardliners see the move as another sop to those who prospered under the Shah and then did not stay to face the hardships of war.

How to save the world

Nigel Hawkes ponders a threat from outer space

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's an asteroid and it's got our number on it.

Some time, although possibly not next week, a huge object from space will crash into the Earth at a speed of 16 miles a second, exploding with the force of a million H-bombs and hurling enough rocks and debris into the air to blot out the Sun. Last week a team of scientists from the American space agency, Nasa, recommended spending $50 million on new telescopes to watch the skies and warn of the approaching cataclysm.

More modestly, two British astronomers have been given time on the British telescopes in the Canaries to study what are called "near-Earth objects" and try to discover more about them. Dr Alan Fitzsimmons of Queen's University, Belfast, says the subject has been neglected by astronomers and, while no alarmist, points out that of a thousand objects believed to have orbits that cross the Earth's, we have discovered only 100 and know almost nothing about all but 10.

The objects come from the asteroid belt, a collection of lumps of rock of various sizes which mostly cluster in a ring between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Some, however, have orbits that cross the Earth's, for reasons not yet plain. Such near-Earth objects may be asteroids, or may be dead comets covered with a layer of dust, something Dr Fitzsimmons would like to settle by studying the way they reflect sunlight.

The American proposal has been greeted with some derision by Washington cynics familiar with the ploys used by scientists to plunder the public wallet. *The Washington Times* described the Nasa report as a "scam to take away taxpayers' money", adding that there is no evidence that anyone, in all human history, has ever been killed by an asteroid.

Hold on there, fellas! Maybe it is hard to identify human victims, but there is good evidence that an impact 65 million years ago helped to wipe out a whole species, the dinosaurs. In 1908 an entire Siberian forest was incinerated when an object 200 ft across struck it, releasing as much energy as 20 large hydrogen bombs. Last year, a tiny object no more than 15-30 ft across missed the Earth by only 100,000 miles, less than half the distance to the Moon. The Earth's surface, when examined closely, is as dotted with holes as a Gruyère cheese: at least 130 impact craters have been identified.

So the possibility of an impact is not in question; what matters is how often it might happen and how large the effect would be. Insisting that "the risk is real", the co-chairman of the Nasa panel, Dr David Morrison told *The New York Times* that we live in a cosmic shooting gallery.

The panel estimates that a proper search might identify between 1,050 and 4,200 Earth-crossing asteroids at least one kilometre in diameter, big enough to disrupt life on Earth by throwing up enough debris to disturb the climate for years or decades. An asteroid this size is expected to hit the Earth every 300,000 years or so. That gives the average person, living for 70 years, roughly a one in 4,000 chance of experiencing such an event. Nasa points out that these may be long odds compared with what people are used to, but are not beyond reckoning. For comparison, the risk of dying in an air crash is one in 20,000.

Of course, it is one thing to know that the Earth is about to be struck, quite another to do anything about it, beyond hiding under the kitchen table. The Nasa proposal is to try to discover more about the risks. With six new telescopes and 25 years' observation, they hope to pin down the orbits of 90 per cent of the near-Earth objects and identify those destined to collide with the Earth in the next century or two.

Once orbits are established, impacts can be predicted sufficiently far ahead to consider launching a space mission to an errant asteroid to give it a nudge into a safer orbit. That would be expensive, but less so than sharing the fate of the dinosaurs. For £50 million, plus another $10 million a year in running costs, Nasa says the new telescopes would be a worthwhile insurance. After an election campaign of short-term thinking, it is a pleasure to consider a proposal as out-of-sight as this one. My own view is that Nasa should be given the money, if only for creating a worry we can all contemplate without anxiety. What is $50 million to save the human race and keep a few astronomers amusingly employed? As far as I am concerned they can start tomorrow.

Anne McElvoy, in Berlin, talks to young Germans whose fear of foreigners is fuelling the far right

Echoes of the Nazi past

The hostel for asylum seekers in Berlin-Lichtenberg has been newly reinforced. The ugly concrete block built by Honecker's regime to house the east's guest workers from Vietnam, Cuba and Marxist Africa now has double strength metal doors and shatterproof windows, in preparation for the next attack by the neo-Nazi groups who roam the area. These occur weekly.

In the surrounding streets where the east's working-class families are industriously renovating their apartments, the hostel is referred to as the "black fleck". A typical resident, Frau Heinzelmann, voted for Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats in the last elections, but has been disappointed by their failure to stem the number of asylum seekers entering the country. "It's a flood," she says, and her voice grows louder as she warms to her theme, "more and more of them all the time. The boat is full. They are taking our jobs and our apartments and someone has to do something instead of just talking all the time."

In the last two years, the number of people seeking asylum has risen sharply to reach a record 35,000 in March alone, and racial attacks have become the norm. The present restricted immigration policy has invited abuse of Germany's constitutionally enshrined right to asylum for the persecuted, and fuels the arguments of those who claim that foreigners are cheating their way into Germany.

There is a vetting process lasting at least a year, which is designed to sort genuine refugees from would-be economic immigrants, but when it has ended it is impossible to make anyone leave, whether or not they have been accepted.

Last weekend's regional elections were fought and lost by both parties on the issue of foreigners. The sweeping gains made last weekend by the far-right Republicans in the south and by the German People's party in the north demonstrate that fear of the foreigner is by no means confined to the east.

This will discomfort many westerners, who like to think that racism is an east German phenomenon. How much easier to discuss the alienation of youth in Saxony than the quiet malice of one's own neighbours. There are few who have not reacted in horror to the attacks on foreigners in eastern cities, but many seem surprisingly unaware of the extent of the violence against foreigners in their own towns and cities.

We have been treated to patronising talk-shows in which monosyllabic neo-Nazis from Dresden were paraded like dancing bears before horrified liberal western audiences, to be told that the source of their dislike of foreigners was the closed society in which they were brought up. Too much attention is paid to shorn-haired lads motivated primarily by the desire to shock, and gratified by the panic they cause whenever they lace up their boots. Too little attention has been paid to those who would never dream of taking part in street battles but who use their votes to express their frustration, anger and fear.

This is the group which has been omitted from the chancellor's considerations since 1989 and which feels aggrieved and worried that it is being bypassed in the unity process. Its members have succumbed to deep *Angst* about their own future in the new Germany. Unlike the east German working class, they have no practical reasons to identify with the process, and would, in their heart of hearts, have preferred the continuation of divided certainties. They are proud of their basic prosperity and scared of it being lost or even reduced.

Many of the new right-wing voters are very young. A breakdown of the results in the regions which voted on Sunday showed that the overwhelming majority are still in their twenties, and two-thirds were first-time voters. It is no longer possible to blame unwelcome outcomes on the old Nazis. The results indicate that a new political class is emerging in Germany, which does not feel itself represented by the democratic parties and feels strongly enough to register a protest vote.

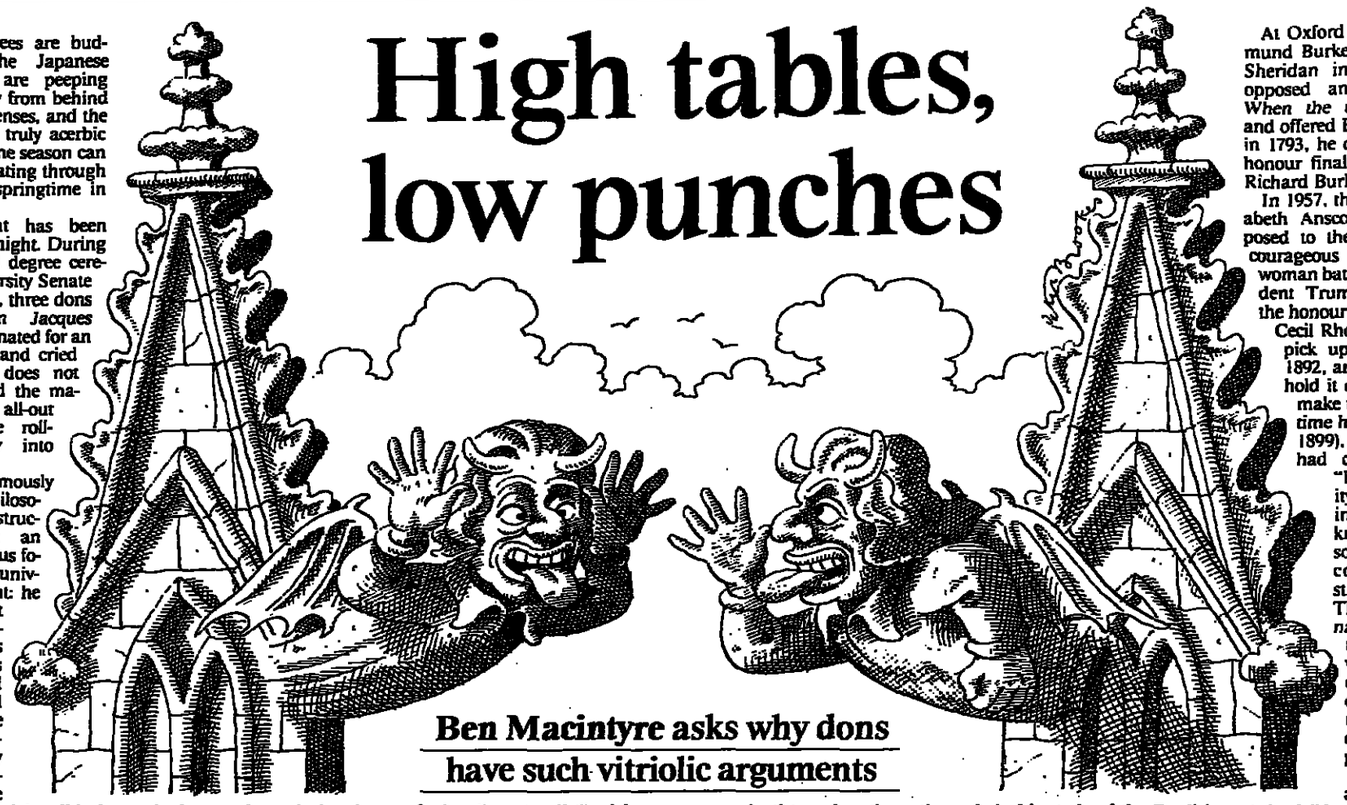
If the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats fail to respond swiftly and imaginatively to increase their appeal to the young, they may see one of the far-right parties emerging strongly, like Jorg Haider's Freedom Party in Austria, as the home of the consensus-weary twentysomethings.

In the recent elections, the Christian Democrats in the south played into the hands of the far right by promoting the topic in panic-stricken tones. Only after the result did Chancellor Kohl promise immediate and close co-operation with the opposition and the long overdue implementation of an accelerated vetting process to clear the logjam of those seeking asylum.

Until now Germany has put its faith in a common European asylum policy sorting out the problem in Brussels rather than Bonn. But that prospect is too remote to be useful. Bonn must make its uncomfortable decisions alone. The answer may lie with stricter rules on asylum — in effect an end to the constitutionally enshrined right to asylum — and a more open policy on immigration instead.

It would be wrong to conclude that there are more racists in Germany than elsewhere, but bad policies can make racists out of usually tolerant people. The democratic right and left will need to employ all their energies to stop the asylum issue fuelling intolerance.

High tables, low punches



Ben Macintyre asks why dons have such vitriolic arguments

All the trees are budding, the Japanese tourists are peeping out shyly from behind their wide-angle lenses, and the sound of the first truly acerbic academic row of the season can be heard reverberating through the courts. It is springtime in Cambridge.

The latest spat has been brewing for a fortnight. During the usually placid degree ceremony at the university Senate House last month, three dons stood up when Jacques Derrida was nominated for an honorary degree, and cried "non placet" (it does not please me) — and the machinery of the all-out academic dispute rolled magnificently into operation.

Derrida, the famously opaque French philosopher of deconstructionism, is not an immediately obvious focus for internecine university disagreement: he has had no effect on education funding, unlike Mrs Thatcher (who was rejected by Oxford in 1985) or Lord Hailsham (whose degree was objected to but finally awarded by Cambridge in 1963); he is not a controversial political figure, unlike President Bhutto of Pakistan, who was rejected for an honorary degree by Oxford in 1975.

None of which has dimmed the ferocity of the dons' dispute, a cyclical event which enables academics to flex their muscles and say the exquisitely rude things about each other that have been brewing gently all winter.

Perhaps it is the requirement to spend many nights of the year dining opposite people they would rather avoid that gives such arguments their unique vitriol; not only are dons more intelligent than most people, they are required by the etiquette of college life to be more polite. When this politesse is briefly suspended in the interests of academic debate, the acid boils over.

Derrida, born in Algeria in 1930, argues that language is indeterminate, and meaning as such is not just elusive but necessarily indefinable: as a philosophical principle it may be open to question, but as a description of the Derrida debate itself, it is largely accurate. Like Derrida's works, the argument over his importance has a tendency to lapse into the incomprehensible.

Broadly speaking, the younger, left-wing academics see in Derrida a philosopher of essentially iconoclastic merit, whose destructive approach has given the Western literary tradition a much-needed jolt. On the other side are the more traditional and conservative thinkers, who see Derrida's influence as dangerous, obscurantist and his followers as irrational subversives. The fact that he has written some 35 books and once planned a career as a professional footballer may have added to the strength of feeling against him, but in many ways this is a continuation of the "structuralist" debate of the 1980s.

The protestors, while making the nature of their objections abundantly clear, have so far avoided a definitive diatribe against the French thinker; that will come in time for May 16, when Derrida's worthiness will be put to the vote by the 2,500 dons of Cambridge.

Such debates often take on a significance distinct from the individuals or principles involved, and the Derrida issue has become an opportunity for other universities to accuse Cambridge of provincialism, Francophobia and so forth.

"These things are symbolic," says Dr Brian Harrison, editor of the latest volume of the History of Oxford. "Certainly the Thatcher vote was an occasion when one decided what sort of person one was. It was not just a political split, but became a row between disciplines with so many scientists and mathematicians feeling they had been underfunded."

The Cambridge English faculty (which Dr Harrison describes as "particularly fractious") has often been a fertile source of academic dispute — the battle between F.R. Leavis and Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch in 1926 and the explosion over the views of structuralist English don Colin MacCabe being only the most violent eruptions in a simmering confrontation over scholarly technique.

In February, the high table of Peterhouse became the focus of a bitter dispute over the academic merits or otherwise of one of the college fellows, John Adamson. The argument began with a broadside against Adamson from Mark Kishlansky, professor of history at Harvard, accusing him of poor, indeed manipulative, historical methods in his study of the English civil war. The debate quickly took on an *ad hominem* slant, prompting Lord Russell, one of Adamson's supporters, to note that the arguments betrayed "malice rather than concern for scholarship".

Donnish disputes often spill over from methodology to the careers of individuals, so obscuring the academic issues and enabling dons from all disciplines, and other universities, to join in. Hence the inflammatory tendencies of the honorary degree. The first of these at Oxford was awarded in 1479, to one Lionel Woodville, whose only claim to distinction was that he was a member of the royal family.

While it is argued by some that honorary degrees should be awarded for merit alone, regardless of politics or other considerations, they have traditionally been used to confer (or withhold) approval.

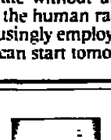
At Oxford doctorates for Edmund Burke in 1790 and R.B. Sheridan in 1810 were both opposed and hotly debated. When the university relented and offered Burke the doctorate in 1793, he declined it, but the honour finally went to his son Richard Burke.

In 1957, the philosopher Elizabeth Anscombe strongly opposed to the bomb, fought a courageous but futile one-woman battle to prevent President Truman from gaining the honour.

Cecil Rhodes was unable to pick up his doctorate in 1892, and it was agreed to hold it over until he could make the journey. By the time he got to Oxford (in 1899), a select committee had censured Rhodes's "heavy responsibility" for the offensive into Boer territory known as the Jameson raid, and the conferment was strongly opposed. The degree was finally awarded when the Duke of York, who attended the ceremony, made it clear that he would not tolerate any dissension in his presence.

In 1907, Oxford awarded a doctorate in civil law to the Kaiser "the most mighty Prince, William II . . . as skilled in the art of peace as in the science of war." After hostilities broke out between Britain and Germany, the honour was rescinded, and a portrait of the Kaiser in doctoral robes was removed from the Bodleian Library. It was finally rehung in the Examination Schools.

But such disputes allow more than just a peep into the sometimes venomous world of the common room: they provide an opportunity for the layman to observe, if only superficially, the trend of intellectual discourse. Derrida has argued that by contrast with British and American philosophers, French thinkers have a tradition of bringing intellectual and cultural concerns to a wider audience. He can take heart that, if the vote goes against him on May 16, he has at least succeeded in that.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I have a pregnant goldfish. But do not write to congratulate me. Do not start knitting things.

Such kindnesses would be premature. I have passed this way before. Every April, I stroll through the back garden, green shoots below, plump buds above, to check for consonant burgeonings in the pond, and, sure enough, every year one of my two dozen fish is duly swollen. It is with egg. It is not always the same fish, but let us not get sidetracked into why this should be, because before we know it we shall find ourselves speculating as to what makes a fish attractive, what makes other fish fancy it one year but not the next, and what the complex social and sexual mores are which obtain in six cubic yards of Cricklewood water to ensure that only one female per annum ever, as my mother would have put it, falls. Having learned to tread warily in the semantics of modern feminism, I do not of course put it that way myself. I do not even know why my mother's generation put it that way, it seems a bit glum, but I don't intend to start rummaging through dictionaries, it's bad enough that my desk is piled high with ichthyological texts. These being what you lug home from the library if you want little fish.

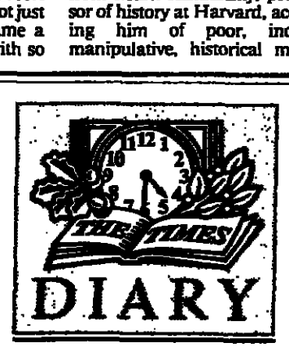
Because if you don't, you have no way of stopping what big fish want, which is little fish, too, but they want them somewhat differently: they want to eat them. For fish are paedophagic: worse yet, they do not gobble only other fish's offspring, they also gobble their own. Why they should have developed this repugnant habit is beyond me, nothing could be more literally counter-productive, but that is what fish do.

It is a source of unremitting annual distress to the caring pondholder. Every April, he is forced to wake from his prelapsarian dream. Once, I was God: I dug a hole to create a little world, I looked upon it and saw that it was good, I said "Be fruitful, and multiply," but I shrewdly rested after the fifth day, believing that if I stopped at fish, all would remain innocent. No one was going to offer fish an apple. I didn't know they didn't have to. I didn't know that fish came with built-in sin. I didn't know that when one became fruitful, the other 23 swam round it waiting for it to multiply so that they could all tuck in.

Well, this year I am putting a stop to it. You can do that if you're God, and have a library ticket. I have filleted everything from *You and Your Pond* to *You and Your Fish*, and, under their instruction, I have built a nursery. You might not recognise it as such, it does not have Womble wallpaper, it does not have a Mickey Mouse mobile, the uninformed would register it as a tin bath full of weeds and walk on, but a nursery is what it is. Somewhere in the weeds is the pregnant fish, poised to lay a million eggs, and as soon as she does this, I, as galvanised as the nursery itself, will be on her in a trice and, even as she begins to salivate, will place her on the other side of the loose muslin partition which bisects the bath, go to the pond, select a male, and pop him in beside her. He will then, I am told, begin hurling himself at the muslin, which will allow him to fertilise the eggs, but will not let him through to eat them: thus, after a bit, I shall have a million titchy fish on one side of the curtain, driving their disgusting parents into a gourmand, but impotent, frenzy. I shall then replace the adult fish in the pond.

Fine. But what happens next? The books do not say; I turn the page to find that like some brusque midwife, they have washed their hands, remounted their Rudges, and pedalled away. Leaving me with a million infants, never mind what happens when I plop the parents back in the pond and 22 by-now-ravenous diners start shouting "Where's our bloody lunch?" All that the books say is that baby fish should not be placed in the pond until they are too large to be attacked. Have you any idea what a million fish too large to be attacked will look like? Forget the tin bath, I shall need the Serpentine.

I have thought long and hard about what I have started, and there would seem to be only one way to finish it. I shall ring up Macfisheries and tell them I am in a position to lay my hands on a reliable supply of whitebait. It would be a terrible waste to let all those little fish go uneaten.



Democracy at bay

AS VOTERS went to the polls yesterday, Britain's election-free pockets around the country were over-run by those seeking refuge. Foremost among them was Lundy, the tiny National Trust island off the north Devon coast. One of only a handful of places in Britain without a polling station, Lundy found its population of 17 swelled by 70 holidaymakers, unprecedented for the time of year, seeking sanctuary from opinion pollsters, canvassers and candidates, not one of whom ventured across the Bristol Channel to solicit the support of the island's 13 electors during the campaign.

Wendy Puddy, who answers the only telephone on the island, says: "They did send us their election literature, but I am ashamed to admit I don't even know the name of the defending MP. I don't think the other 12 voters here do either." It was Emma Nicholson.

The island stocks no newspapers, and none of the 26 self-catering cottages — currently fully-occupied, as never before at this time of year — has the dubious benefit of television or radio. Anyway, the electricity supply stops at midnight.

The Loch Ness House Hotel, just outside Inverness, took a more cynical approach. Talk of the election was banned in the bars and restaurants while TVs and radios were removed from rooms as part of an "escape the election break". Books, instead of newspapers, appeared at breakfast; ear-plugs and blindfolds were issued free. A full house was reported.

By contrast Burton Green, despite a population of just 1,055, laid claim yesterday to be the most election-saturated place in Britain. Just a pin-prick on the map, the village returns — or helps to return — no fewer than three MPs. The local school acted as a polling station for Rugby constituents, while up the road the village hall was the venue for Meriden voters. Those who fell within Coventry South West had to trek to a neighbouring village, where a temporary booth had been installed in a pub car park.

● *Anthony Hopkins has been brought down to earth with a bump after his Academy Award success. The actor has returned to Britain for his first post-Oscar engagement: a promotional video for the Post Office. Don't ever set the dog on the postman again. He might end up eating the canine.*

Franks commission

AMONG the least sung heroes of the election campaign were five retired Tory MPs who have spent the past month answering the thousand or more letters a day addressed to John Major which have poured into Downing Street.

The job is a vital one, for a single word out of place could cost hundreds of votes in marginal constituencies, as Matthew Parris discovered when he was Mrs Thatcher's correspondence secretary before the 1979 election.

The five Downing Street agony aunts, who have been working for 12 hours a day to deal with the correspondence, are Sir Robert McCrindle, Sir Hugh Rossi, Sir William Clark, Robert Boscawen and Michael Latham. By yesterday they had replied to more than 20,000 letters.

The letters were divided into 26 subject headings, and Rossi drew the short straw. Animal welfare has attracted the largest postbag, followed closely by letters from English voters about the threat to the union — which may explain why Major devoted so much time to the subject in the closing days of the campaign.

● *Anyone who thought the British election was characterised by low abuse might care to peruse* Paul Keating's Book of Insults, *an anthology of the more outrageous sayings of the Australian prime minister, published this week in Canberra. His description of the opposition leader, John Hewson, surely beats Denis Healey's famous description of Sir Geoffrey Howe as like being "savaged by a dead sheep". Coming under attack by Hewson is like being "flogged with a warm lettuce". But Keating does not enjoy receiving it as much as he likes dishing it out. When Hewson struck back, calling Keating's faction "the nearest thing this country has had to the mafia in decades", the prime minister was shocked. Without a flicker of embarrassment, he denounced such abuse as likely "to lower the esteem of parliament in the eyes of the public".*

X-country

WHATEVER else may have been happening yesterday, it was National Saltire day. The event could not have been more appropriate. The saltire, a large black diagonal cross, is the emblem of the Thames Hare and Hounds, believed to be the oldest cross-country club in the world, established in 1866.

"We realised that millions of our crosses would be appearing on ballot papers throughout the country," said organiser Mike Allen, "so we decided to declare our own national day." A celebratory dinner was held at the Travellers' Club last night both to mark the occasion and to honour Hugh Bryant and Denis Kensit, the club's two oldest active members.

● *If you have not received a personal letter from Liz Taylor in the past few days, do not feel offended. Just 84 of the world's most glittering, not to mention richest, have been hand-picked to receive a personal appeal trying to persuade them to fork out over $1 million dollars for a diamond mask to raise money for Taylor's Aids charity. "For those who think they're on every important list, there's a worldwide list of truly wealthy people more exclusive than the US Senate or the Vatican Curia. Those who haven't received the presentation package and personal letter from Elizabeth Taylor may not be as rich as they think they are," says her office. Thank heavens.*

THE JAPANESE CRASH

Had millions of Britons last night not been awaiting a verdict on the next British government they would have been bombarded with television images of the floor of the Tokyo stock exchange. And they might well conclude that events in the latter venue may have more impact on Britain over the next few years than any result at the polls. When the Japanese economy gets a bad cold, the American and European economies should do more than look to their hankies.

The collapse of the Tokyo stock market has seen prices fall by an astonishing 60 per cent since the peak in 1990. In the last four days alone, the fall has produced losses that would imply the bankruptcy of every quoted company in Germany, France, Italy and Spain. Since the stock market crash of 1987 on Wall Street the world has become casual about periodic financial "crises". But like the boy who cried wolf, the world economy may not be immune from lasting damage, simply because there have been false alarms.

The Tokyo crash has been bigger than the one suffered five years ago on Wall Street. Because of the structure of the Japanese financial system, stock market values can have a more direct effect than they do in America on industrial investment and Japanese bank lending throughout the world, including in London.

Even in 1987 it was widely argued that a collapse in Tokyo, rather than New York, would be the true historical analogue of the Wall Street crash of 1929. Japan in the 1980s, like America in the 1920s, was the new financial superpower. Japan in the 1990s, like America in the 1930s, has turned out to be the country where industry, banking, stockbroking, speculation and politics have been most intimately — and dangerously — intertwined.

Now that the long-awaited Tokyo crash has become a reality, such historical analogies should not be read too literally. But neither should they be ignored. The world today is stuck in a recession longer and less responsive to the normal instruments of economic policy than any in living memory. The causes of this recession are similar to the ones that produced disaster 60 years ago. In the 1980s, as in the 1920s, soaring stock market and property values were used to support ever more precarious levels of borrowing. As asset values started falling, the structures of debt were left without foundations; and crumbled.

The collapse of the Tokyo stock market is forcing Japanese banks and insurance companies to withdraw their capital from America and Europe, just as the great American financial institutions withdrew their funds from Britain and Europe after 1929. At present the Japanese authorities seem content to sit on their hands and watch this process of asset deflation unfolding. The Bank of Japan feels unable to cut interest rates sharply, fearing that lower interest rates would cause inflation, undermining the yen.

Unlike America and Europe, Japan has a clear alternative to monetary reflation. Japan is today the only major industrialised country whose government enjoys a surplus of tax revenues over public spending. Its scope for large-scale fiscal reflation is immense. With a substantial fiscal stimulus, the Japanese government could help see that the troubles of its stock market did not induce further recession.

At present, Japanese politicians are too preoccupied with scandals and inter-factional feuding to act on taxes and public spending. Officials in the Bank of Japan and the Ministry of Finance seem positively gleeful as the "bubble economy" is punctured and their political masters are reduced to embarrassed impotence. Herein lies the road to ruin. With the world economy struggling to pull out of recession and America and Europe increasingly tempted by protectionism, Japan cannot afford the luxury of leaving its role in the world economy at the mercy of domestic political score-settling. Its government must act speedily to stimulate the Japanese and world economies, by raising public spending or cutting taxes or both.

BOSNIA ON THE BRINK

Any shots in Sarajevo send a shudder through Europe. As many feared, the European Community's recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina has been followed by fresh fighting in the Yugoslav republic that lies at the heart of the Balkans. Dozens have been killed in skirmishes in the last few days, 31 in Sarajevo alone.

Clashes between the Serbs, who oppose secession, and the Muslims and Croats, who voted overwhelmingly for independence, now threaten this ethnically mixed republic with full-scale civil war. Extremist gangs on all sides are attacking each other at random, leading to retaliatory civilian massacres. Despite a history of mutual tolerance within Bosnia, despite agreement by the three main groups on a constitutional framework and despite the efforts of Alija Izetbegovic, the moderate Muslim president, Bosnia now appears to be trapped in a vortex of suspicion, fear and bloodshed.

European Community recognition is not the cause of the fighting, only a pretext for Serbian extremists to try to enforce with bullets what they have constantly failed to secure by ballot: the creation of a Greater Serbia. Since the EC's decision in December to recognise Croatia and Slovenia, all Yugoslavs have known that the outside world now accepts their country's de facto dismantlement. It was only a matter of time before other republics voting for independence were recognised. The EC only held back to give Lord Carrington and the inter-communal negotiations chaired by José Cutileiro, the Portuguese special envoy, a chance.

Having opted for independence, Bosnia now needs outside guarantees of its viability. Neither Serbia nor Croatia have dropped their earlier designs on the territories inhabited by their ethnic kinsmen. Hardliners round both President Milosevic and President Tudjman are looking for ways to stir up trouble in the hope that they can change frontiers. The United Nations is to set up the headquarters of its peacekeeping operation in Sarajevo, but it has no mandate to deploy elsewhere in Bosnia. The EC therefore still has some hope of exerting pressure. On Wednesday it sent a tough message to President Milosevic in Belgrade warning him against his customary meddling. Senhor Cutileiro has also told Bosnian leaders that recognition is only the first step in its relations with the Community. If Bosnia wants further EC support its leaders must restrain the militias.

Ethnic tensions in Bosnia are less acute than in Croatia. Not all Serbs back the nationalist extremists, and moderate Serb and Croat leaders are willing to work with the Muslims, the largest group. The Yugoslav army has announced that it will not pull out of Bosnia for five years because of the need to protect the Serbs, but it shows no desire to intervene in the fighting or take on the Croats and Muslims. It appears willing to negotiate with President Izetbegovic.

Yet the scope for peacemaking by outsiders is limited. Yugoslavia is like one of those Russian dolls: within each dispute are concealed ever more intractable local ones. The EC still has not recognised Macedonia because of Greek intransigence, though the 11 are losing patience with Athens over this. Having secured a declaration in Macedonia's constitution that it has no territorial claims on any neighbouring state, the EC cannot withhold recognition simply because of Greek sensitivities over its name.

The Community must now use whatever leverage it has through the Carrington peace talks to preserve a precarious peace and force all sides to confront the futility of surrendering to war. War breeds war, and could do so throughout the Balkans, far beyond the dusty streets of this old Ottoman city.

MUNICIPAL TWINS

Traveller's French, learned on the roads between Calais and the Dordogne, has introduced many a British tourist to the rudiments of Gallic civic pride. After the endearing list of boasts that tends to accompany the town sign of Quelqueville — "*ses vins, ses huitres, ses églises*" — comes the inevitable "*jumelée avec*..." Few towns seem to lack a foreign twin, however improbable: Beddington and Biarritz? The connections forged between communities after the last war have led to friendships that no government could engineer from above. Now a European Community directive threatens to make those modest *ententes* much harder.

The most popular use for town twinning is the school-exchange visit. These are small-scale ventures, mostly organised by parent-teacher associations with little help even from their education authority. The money is often raised through jumble sales, raffles and sponsored swims, the trips fixed not through big companies but cheaply, with the help of the other town. Children become "twinned" with each other personally, staying in the others' homes. As any teacher will attest, languages are learned far faster in the host country with a local family than by memorising lists of irregular verbs copied from a textbook.

A directive that comes into force in December threatens to put these trips on the same regulatory footing as package tours. "Operators" would be forced to lodge a financial bond large enough to refund all the money paid by those taking the trip and to cover the cost of bringing the whole party back to Britain in an emergency. Lawyers are warning that the directive could prevent schools organising any foreign trips.

The tradition of twinning has a noble origin. One of the first *jumelages* was born soon after the first world war between Blackburn and the French town of Péronne, where the mayor of Blackburn's son had been killed in one of the battles of the Somme. The mayor fell in love with the town and Blackburn helped raise funds to rebuild the bridge destroyed in the fighting.

The same inspiration to make friends out of shared adversity brought two great victims of the next war — Coventry and Stalingrad — to twin with each other in 1944. The rebuilding of Europe in the 1940s saw a spate of twinnings in an effort to restore personal as well as national relations. Coventry is now the most-twinned city in Britain. Its 26 partners run from Dresden and Caen, both also heavily bombed, to Kingston, Jamaica and Jinan in China.

Some twinnings have been excuses for councillors junketing at taxpayers' expense. Diplomatic incidents between delegations have sometimes made an *entente* less than *cordiale*. But links forged with Eastern European and Soviet towns during the Cold War are now proving their usefulness: last month, the people of Durham raised £28,000 to send a relief convoy of five articulated lorries, a 17-ton truck, a coach and a mobile home 2,500 miles to Kostroma in the former Soviet Union.

Town-twinning is a good example of Burke's "little platoons" at work. No government intervention is needed, no public expenditure incurred. Charity and enterprise are stirred where they work best, at the lowest possible level between people who come to know and like each other. Don't let Brussels spoil it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Implications of libelling celebrities

From Mr James Gilbert

Sir, Your leader on the Jason Donovan libel action (April 7) says: "Probably 95 per cent of libel cases never get near a court, being settled early on by apology". You could have added: "and damages and costs to the plaintiff's instructions". It is so expensive — and usually futile — to resist a case, however preposterous it may be, that we publishers simply grind our teeth and pay up. If we carry libel insurance, our insurers will force us to settle: it's always cheaper to settle than fight.

No general harm done, you might think, in publishers being endlessly ripped off thus by the libel industry. But it does discourage us from pursuing rogues, which surely ought to be part of the press's duty. Only the wealthiest newspapers dare contemplate any sort of real investigative journalism. Of course it is batty to let juries decide the size of "awards"; and a side-effect is to cow us publishers all down the line.

Nor does there seem to be any hope of reform of Britain's uniquely oppressive libel laws. The libel industry itself, sitting on such a nice little earner, would surely resist such a move; and Parliament doesn't seem interested.

Sincerely,
JAMES GILBERT
(Publisher and Editor),
Pilot,
Pilot Publishing Company Ltd.,
The Clock House, 28 Old Town,
Clapham, SW4.
April 7.

From Mr Peter Smith

Sir, Your leader states: "Mr Donovan agreed that there is nothing libellous about saying that someone is homosexual". That was indeed the case put for Mr Donovan, on the shrewd basis that as *The Face* magazine had published a grossly offensive poster of him, which suggested that he was hypocritical as to his sexuality, there was no need for Mr Donovan to say that it was defamatory to suggest that he was homosexual.

The simple fact is that such a suggestion is defamatory. It may not be found to be so if one were so fortunate in court as to have a jury drawn from Hampstead or the media, but such persons are in no sense representative of the vast majority of our fellow citizens.

The advice I always give is that it would be highly defamatory to say, without clear evidence, that anyone is homosexual: that advice would also be given by all libel lawyers of my acquaintance.

Yours faithfully,
PETER S. SMITH (Head of Programme Legal Services),
Thames Television,
306-316 Euston Road, NW1.
April 7.

From Mr I. D. Bruce

Sir, The outcome of the libel case involving *The Face* has again given rise to suggestions that the freedom of juries to determine damages should be curtailed. Before suggestions like these are acted upon it may be worth reflecting that the jury-room is one place in Britain where the democratic process works and works well.

When juries demonstrated their unwillingness to convict under the Official Secrets Act the jury system was generally well regarded and seen as a defender of the citizen's freedoms.

Today the conclusion to be drawn from the succession of high damage awards by juries in libel cases is not that juries are capricious and illogical and ought to be better controlled, but rather that they are expressing a clear public view that publishers who damage the reputation of individuals are conducting their business in an unacceptable way.

Juries are so effective at expressing the public will and at preserving individual freedoms that their powers ought to be enhanced, not diminished.

Your obedient servant,
I. D. BRUCE,
1 Sandiway Park, Hartford,
Northwich, Cheshire.
April 4.

From Mr Michael J. Brown

Sir, Juries seem to be less concerned with the hurt which has been caused than with the "fame" of the person defamed. That is logical where the libel may cause financial loss which the verdict cannot prevent. In any other circumstances a factory worker should surely be compensated on the same scale as a pop star or a politician.

Is he not hurt with the same weapon? Is he not healed by the same means? Shylock would have thought so. Jeffrey Archer might agree.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. BROWN,
Brown Cooper (solicitors),
7 Southampton Place, WC1.
April 7.

Designing an 'Oscar' for engineers

From Mr W. L. Wilson, CEng

Sir, The need for an engineering "Oscar" raised by Mr Brian Warnes in his letter of April 2, can be said either to be timely or, even more accurately, very late in the day, in so far as it implies a well publicised exhibition of individual achievements in that field.

Individual learned societies have platforms of their own for honouring individuals and technological triumphs, but these are modest affairs, little observed by the national press. Indeed, I well remember just such a gold medal award to one great engineer, Barnes Wallis, going almost totally unremarked nationally.

I cite an isolated case, but how many of your readers are aware of Wallis's achievements? By the same token, who knows who played the lead engineering roles in the creation of North Sea oil platforms, Rolls-Royce engines, Concorde, QE2, the atomic energy industry, the distribution of natural gas (in five years nationwide), or the Thames Barrier? Anonymity will not bring recruits to a profession on which we all depend nor can nations survive without converting their natural resources effectively for the benefit of mankind. Our current emphasis on the construction of office spaces, shops, leisure centres and museums is hardly a step in that direction.

Yours,
W. L. WILSON,
34 Chestnut Avenue,
Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.

From the President of the Fellowship of Engineering

Sir, Mr Brian Warnes calls for "a sort of engineering Oscar". Such a thing already exists as the Fellowship of Engineering MacRobert Award. Established in 1969 by the MacRobert Trusts, it was designed specifically to reward innovation in engineering and over the years many of this country's most famous names in industry have been recognised.

The MacRobert Award is given annually, normally to only one winner, and comprises a gold medal and £25,000. Nearly every year since its foundation the award has been presented by Prince Philip, the Senior Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, and a major exhibition is mounted for three months in the entrance to the Science Museum. Since the Fellowship, as the UK's national academy of engineering, took the award under its wing, a lot of extra financial support has been given by both industry and the DTI.

Every year the interest shown by the media in the award is minimal, despite the fact that it is given to people and companies who have not only had a bright idea but have managed to complete the innovative process by achieving real success in the marketplace.

Many of the things that need doing in this country rely first on wealth creation. The MacRobert Award rewards those who make the process happen. I look forward to seeing Oscar-like interest in this autumn's award.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM BARLOW, President,
The Fellowship of Engineering,
2 Little Smith Street,
Westminster, SW1.

From Professor Peter Hills, CEng

Sir, The continued separation of our professional engineering institutions allows cracks to exist in what should be a continuum. Solutions to engineering problems and the most desirable consumer durables are frequently based across the full spectrum of mechanical, electrical, electronic and software engineering.

The structure of the profession must reflect this spectrum: industrial robots, copiers, motor engine management systems, cameras, computer printers . . . all these exist in spite of the present diversity, not because of it.

Further cracks can occur between the research funding councils. Even in the Science and Engineering Research Council's far-sighted engineering design initiative the progress made on the more scientific and obviously engineering fronts is sometimes impeded by an unwillingness for funding committees to venture into supporting market-related research or consideration of the human aspects of the design process and its management.

A belief still exists in many quarters that SERC is all about science and that you go to the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) for the human stuff. This is not necessarily the fault of those councils: the members of their funding committees have been appointed from this divided base and may not see the need for a broader, more synthesising approach.

Theodor von Karman, one of the pioneers of jet propulsion, said that "a scientist explores what is, an engineer creates what has never been". Both at the institutional and at the individual levels our engineers must recognise this and lobby (like the scientists do) to ensure a helpful professional structure and a breadth of approach to research funding which reflects the real needs of engineering.

Success would lead to more wealth creation, more exports and less imports. The whole country stands to benefit and so, of course, would we engineers.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HILLS
(SERC engineering design co-ordinator),
The Design Council,
28 Haymarket, SW1.

Shaw legacy

From the Master of Jesus College, Cambridge

Sir, In his article of April 7 in Life & Times, pugnaciously but inaccurately headed "Abuse of Shaw's literary legacy", Michael Holroyd alleges that, in the course of a question time discussion in the House of Lords, "Lord Renfrew . . . was happy to see Shaw's obvious wishes largely ignored and Parliament misled; he approved of the money being spent on refurbishing galleries and modernising the non-vegetarian restaurant . . ."

Perhaps I may assure your readers, and indeed Michael Holroyd, that I do not believe Shaw's wishes to have been ignored (and would be unhappy if they were) and would be outraged to see Parliament misled. Mr Holroyd has used his considerable powers of invention to concoct my supposed views on "the non-vegetarian restaurant" to which I made no reference whatever.

My contribution to the discussion was simply to obtain confirmation from the minister that Shaw's bequest to the British Museum was unrestricted and that when the British Library subsequently separated from the British Museum, no request was received from the British Library board for a share of the bequest.

Despite this, the trustees of the British Museum have on many occasions considered requests from the British Library for purchase grants for books and manuscripts and have so far acceded to all such requests, including the recent purchase of Shaw's letters to Ellen Terry. They will, no doubt, continue to expend the income as Shaw intended, for the benefit of the British Museum, including the great reading room in which Shaw spent so many of his early days and which he remembered with gratitude in his will.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN RENFREW,
The Master's Lodge,
Jesus College, Cambridge.

Literacy standards

From Mr N. W. P. Cole

Sir, As one whose work involves recruitment into industry, I read with interest your report (April 8) of the survey which indicated employers believe standards of literacy and numeracy amongst school leavers are slipping.

In my post today I received a letter from a local headteacher, offering the use of his school's facilities. Apart from various grammatical and spelling errors, his letter invited my firm to "loan" his school's video. I do not know whether the concept of borrowing and lending is included in the national curriculum, but if headteachers are unable to master this simple idea, what hope is there for their pupils?

Yours faithfully,
N. W. P. COLE,
Hawthorn Cottage, Cold Norton,
Nr Stone, Staffordshire.
April 8.

Consultants' defence

From Dr Myer Goldman

Sir, I take strong exception to the reported remarks (April 6) of William Reid, the health service ombudsman, who is quoted as saying:

> I still find that the old-fashioned consultant cares not one jot for the feelings of the patient. He is completely self-centred and regards any complaint as a distraction.

Even if every complaint received concerned a different consultant and if every single one was upheld, only a small minority of the total consultant body in this country would be involved.

One valid complaint is one too many, but those dealing with quasi-legal processes should not indulge in sweeping generalisations.

Yours sincerely,
MYER GOLDMAN
(Consultant radiologist),
36 Druids Cross Garden,
Liverpool 18.
April 6.

Charitable view

From Mr Mike Tuffrey

Sir, You report (April 2) the league table of corporate givers which reveals that cash donations to charities have risen as a percentage of profits. Good news, one might think. In fact it is misleading: there is little evidence that company giving has risen in real terms — merely that profits have fallen. It is still too early to judge to what extent charitable budgets will survive the recession.

The real story is buried in the comment you quote from the CBI. Companies are increasingly releasing employees, or simply giving them encouragement, to undertake community and voluntary work. When more companies demonstrate they are indeed corporate citizens, not just by making donations, welcome though they are, but by playing a full part in the life of their local communities with their time and other resources, then there will indeed be cause to celebrate. The community is a stakeholder in business just as much as are investors and employees.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE TUFFREY (Editor),
Community Affairs Briefing,
14 Soho Square, W1.

A canal too twee

From Mrs Nancy Eaglesham

Sir, Your photograph today (April 2) shows the attractive "stairway to heaven" lock-series on the Grand Union Canal. Alas, the accompanying report reveals yet another British Waterways "improvement project" which will ruin the area for ever. It lists a marina, restaurant, tearoom, craft shop, visitor centre and all the other theme-park paraphernalia.

One could also add, from my experience of the Lancaster Canal, increased car-parking and pollution, "up-grading" towpaths by ripping out old trees and vegetation in favour of bleak municipal gravel, the obliteration of real canal history by phoney "Jolly Bargeman" pubs, and the decoration of the whole with dinky fingerposts.

The British Waterways managers seem to have trained in Disneyland. When they get round to labelling this latest scheme, I hope they remember to change "Stairway to heaven" to "Descent into hell".

Yours faithfully,
NANCY EAGLESHAM,
25 Brookdale, New Longton,
Preston, Lancashire.
April 2.

Aid for Albania

From Mr Joseph Harmatz

Sir, I was pleased to learn that the British Council has established a resource centre in Tirana (letter, April 6). Your readers may also like to know that ORT, a British-based international training organisation, was requested by USAID, the leading US development aid organisation, to conduct a survey last September of the most urgent needs in terms of education and training in this devastated country, and that in the light of its conclusions we sent out three senior consultants — one American, one Canadian and one British. They have been in Tirana since January.

An intensive programme, initially for one year, for the retraining of ex-political detainees and their families is now under way. The objective is to train a nucleus of instructors in the skills of management of small businesses, construction trades, office, secretarial, and fashion trades. They in turn will teach these to others, in order to create for themselves an economic existence.

Yours faithfully,
J. HARMATZ (Director General),
ORT Union Trust,
3 Sumpter Close,
Finchley Road, NW3.

Rail crossing safety

From Mr Douglas Smith

Sir, Were everyone law-abiding and not prey to momentary idiocy the system of half-barriers at unmanned level crossings would probably work as its designers intended. But life is not like that, especially if, as appears from your report, "Three killed as train hits car on crossing" (April 6), you are young and accompanied by companions you seek to impress.

Surely imaginative engineers could devise a total barrier which, in emergency, would allow exit from the track side by exertion of some pressure but which on no account would permit entry to the track without causing serious damage to the vehicle involved? Apart from saving folk from their own stupidity, British Rail owe it to their train drivers to make foolproof arrangements.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS SMITH,
49 Halls Farm Close,
Winchester, Hampshire.

BDs in EL

From Lord Silsoe, QC

Sir, Like Mr Graham Bird (letter, April 6), I note with much more than concern the RA's (redundant apostrophes) which are now so prevalent among the BDs (bizarre developments) in the EL (English language).

The MA's (misplaced apostrophes) are as bad. I manage while singing hymns to pronounce Jesus' as Jesu's (as in Jesu's name), so salving my own sensibilities. But how can I cope with James', Delors', Souness' and others, whose singular is singular but whose genitive sounds plural?

Yours faithfully,
SILSOE,
2 Mitre Court Buildings,
Temple, EC4.

From Dr Robert Baker

Sir, Has Mr Bird also noticed the proliferation of UICs (Unnecessary Inverted Commas), with their rather curious "effect" on a sentence? As an example, I quote from the window of a local "greengrocer": "We regret that we will be closed on June 6 for the 'wedding' of our 'daughter' ".

Yours "sincerely",
ROBERT BAKER,
36 Cheriton Place,
Henleaze, Bristol, Avon.
April 6.

From Mr Peter Martin

Sir, The redundant apostrophe is alive and well, as your radio review (April 7) of *Who's Line is it Anyway?* confirmed.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MARTIN,
Purley Bury House,
Lexington Court, Purley, Surrey.
April 7.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Business letters, page 25
Sports letters, page 34

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 9: The Prince Edward this evening opened the International Youth Arts Festival *Brouhaha* at the Liverpool Playhouse and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Merseyside (Mr Henry Cotton).

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, Master, the Worshipful Company of Loriners, this morning attended the Annual Search and Lecture at Cordwainers' College, 182 Mare Street, London E8.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in *attendance*.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Scots (the Royal Regiment), this afternoon received Lieutenant Colonel I. A. Johnstone on relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer First Battalion the Royal Scots (the Royal Regiment) and Lieutenant Colonel W. P. Sylvester on assuming the appointment.

The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, this evening attended the Cambridgeshire British Olympic Appeal Dinner at Trinity College, Cambridge and was received by Mrs James Crowden (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire).

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 9: The Princess of Wales this evening attended a Gala Performance by the Kirov Opera and Ballet in aid of the State Maryinsky Theatre, St Petersburg and the Royal Opera House Trust at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Wing Commander David *Barton, RAF, were in attendance.*

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 9: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, the London Orpheus Choir this evening attended a concert to celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Her Royal Highness in St John's Smith Square, London SW1.

Mrs Michael Harvey was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester today visited County Durham and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for County Durham (Mr D. J. Grant).

In the morning His Royal Highness visited Darlington *MIND, St Hilda's House*, 11 Borough Road, Darlington, and later opened the new factory of P.C. Henderson Limited, Bowburn, Durham.

In the afternoon The Duke of Gloucester visited Alington House Community Association, 4 North Bailey, Durham, and subsequently opened the new offices of Easington Village Parish Council and East Durham Groundwork Trust, at Seaton Holme, Easington.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 9: The Duke of Kent, President of the Automobile Association, this morning opened the new Insurance Offices, Newcastle upon Tyne and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Tyne and Wear (Colonel Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison).

This afternoon His Royal Highness opened the Royal British Legion Housing Association's New Scheme, Cuthbertson Court, Dykelands Road, Seaburn, and then visited Cookson Fukuda Limited, Shiremoor.

The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, later opened the new Headquarters of the Sage Group, Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Captain the Hon Tom Coke was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 9: Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Bethlem Royal Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital, this afternoon opened Eileen Skellern House, Phase 2 of the new ward development at the Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Dinners

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained at dinner last night at Guildhall the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of City Livery Companies and their ladies, Aldermen, Sheriffs, *the Chief Commoner*, Members of the Court of Common Council and High Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts. *The Lord Mayor, the Master of* the Mercers' Company and the Master of the Grocers' Company were the speakers. Among others present were:

The Master of the Gild of Freemen of the City of York and Mrs Walker, the Master and Mistress Cutler in Hallamshire, Lord and Lady Mais, Sir Robert and Lady Bellinger, Miss Sandra Coppen, Mr Brian Davey, Mr and Mrs Stephen James, Miss Julia Jenkins, Miss Rosalind Porway, Mr James Winterton and Mr and Mrs Michael Winterton.

All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club
Sir Peter Imbert was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club held last night at the Institute of Directors. Mr J.A.H. Curry, chairman, presided and Mr J.N. Archer also spoke.

College of Ophthalmologists
Mr Peter Wright, President of the College of Ophthalmologists, was host at the annual dinner held last night at the Baltic Exchange. Among those present were Dr and Mrs Stephen Drance, Professor Anthony Murray, Dr Roswell Pfister, Dr Thomas Neuhann and Mr and Mrs Richard Keeler.

HM Stipendiary Magistrates
Sir David Hopkin, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, presided at the annual dinner of Her Majesty's Stipendiary Magistrates held at the Middle Temple last evening. The guests of honour were Lord Justice Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice-designate, and Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC.

Marine Society

The 220th Annual Court of The Marine Society will be held at 11.45 on Wednesday, May 20, 1992, at The Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Lambeth, when Mr F.M. Everard, President, The Chamber of Shipping, will give the address.

Moreton Hall, Shropshire

Moreton Hall announces the following awards for September 1992:

VIth Form Major Scholarship: Sophie Higson, Ripon Grammar School and Moreton Hall.
VIth Form Reading Exhibition: Nan Parry, Wat's Dyke Primary School, Wrexham, and Moreton Hall.
13+ Major Scholarship: Kathryn Sentance, Stancliffe Hall, Darley Dale.
11+ Major Scholarship: Sian Williams, Victoria Junior School, Wrexham.
11+ Minor Scholarship: Abigail Goddard, The Elms, Colwall.

The Queen of The Netherlands receiving a huge bouquet when she arrived to open Floriade 92 at Zoetermeer yesterday. More than two million people are expected to visit the horticultural exhibition

Sculpture centre

Leeds celebrates Moore

BY MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

YET more vigour will be thrust into the arts outside London with the start on the construction of the Henry Moore Sculpture Centre in Leeds, announced recently. *Set up by the Henry Moore* Foundation, which commands a capital endowment of £50 million, it will promote the study of the sculpture of all nations, from pre-history to the present.

Henry Moore was an art student in Leeds and grew up in Castleford. Robert Hopper, the director of the new centre, says: "Half of the beauty of moving here is the facilities. The City Art Gallery next door has one of the finest collections of 20th century British art outside the Tate Gallery.

"The foundation has helped set up an MA in sculpture at the university. At Dean Clough Mills in Halifax we have established a studio, where we invite two or three major artists each year to create new work. And down the road in the grounds of Bretton Hall, just outside Wakefield, we are supporting the Yorkshire Sculpture Park."

The catalyst for the Leeds Sculpture Centre was the availability of three former *merchants' houses close to* the city hall. "We wanted an architect who would respond to the site," Mr Hopper says, "respect the almost domestic scale of the existing buildings, and produce an architectural *statement that was at once* strong and restrained."

Perhaps not surprisingly the centre turned to Jeremy Dixon and Edward Jones, architects of the hypersensitive extension proposed for the Royal Opera House at *Covent Garden*.

The terrace of red brick houses had been cut through in the thirties as if by a bread knife, leaving a hastily rendered over party wall facing on to a new square where the city's war memorial now stands. Here the new entrance had to be set. Dixon's solution takes the form of a huge bookend, highly sculptural in texture.

Inside, the houses have suffered unsympathetic uses, Mr Hopper says, "but we want to retain the domestic feeling of *the merchants' office at the* front."

The main change will be to fill in the entire space between the rear wings as a double height sculpture gallery. "My brief was to produce bright neutral space that would do nothing to interfere with the sculpture. No skirtings, no ceiling details, no grilles, no visible switches, just white walls like a Cork Street art gallery.

"The basic inspiration are the loft galleries you find in New York. Everything de*pends on the quality of light.* With each exhibition the sculpture must take over and radically change the feeling of the space," Mr Dixon says.

The study centre, formerly in the Art Gallery, will move *into the first floor.* "We already have one of the best sculpture libraries in existence. It's expanded greatly in the last year," Mr Hopper adds. "The archives are building up dramatically. We've a great body of photographs of *Eric Gill in his studio*, and a wealth of Epstein material from the family."

Ambitious plans are underway for interactive videos. Library users, it is hoped, will be able to summon up film and video material, edit it, add their own text and go home with their own video cartridge.

The cost of the new building will be £4.6 million, within budget thanks to highly competitive tenders coming in with the recession. Staff for the centre will be provided by the city art gallery.

The opening exhibition in 1993 will be of English Romanesque sculpture. Ben Heywood, the assistant director who is organising it, explains: "We will be borrowing *12th century statues from the* west front of York Minster, never seen at close quarters before. With these, we hope will come elements from a narrative frieze, from Lincoln cathedral, of the torments of Adam, Noah and Daniel, recently taken down for treatment following damage by *acid rain.*"

The Henry Moore Foundation has spread from the care of Moore's own collection at his studio in Perry Green, Hertfordshire to become a not so small British version of the Getty Foundation in California.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King James V of Scotland, reigned 1513-42, Linlithgow, 1512; John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester, poet and courtier, Ditchley, Oxfordshire, 1647; Sir John Pringle, physician and president of the Royal Society 1772, Stitchel, Roxburgh, 1707; Samuel Hahnemann, physician *and founder of homoeopathic* medicine, Meissen, Germany, 1755; William Hazlitt, Maidstone, 1778; William Booth, *founder of the Salvation Army*, Nottingham, 1829; George William Russell ("AE"), writer, Lurgan, Co Armagh, 1867; George Arliss, actor, London, 1868.

DEATHS: Alexander Nasmyth, painter, Edinburgh, 1840; Giovanni Amici, astronomer, Florence, 1863; Algernon Charles Swinburne, London, 1909; August Lumière, pioneer of motion pictures, Lyons, 1954; Evelyn Waugh, writer, Combe Florey, Somerset, 1966.

The first British settlers arrived in South Africa, at Algoa Bay, 1820.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will take the salute at the Lord High Admiral's Divisions at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, *at 10.30; will attend a dedication* service in the chapel for a special entry book of rememberance; and, as President of the National Playing Fields Association, will attend a reception in support of the Hampshire Playing Fields Association at IBM United Kingdom, Portsmouth, at 5.05.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the BBC Young Musician of the *Year competition*, will attend the finals at the Concert Hall, Glasgow, at 6.25.

Princess Alexandra will take the salute at the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, at 10.25.

Appointments

Mr Desmond Seymour Perrett, QC, to be a circuit judge on the Midland and Oxford circuit.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Ainsworth-Taylor and Miss C.P. Lawrenson
The *engagement* is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Ainsworth-Taylor, of Kyalami, South Africa, and Catherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard Lawrenson, of Hurlingham, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mr R.H.L. Booth and Miss M. King
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr Roger Booth, of Waterhouses, Durham, and Mrs Penelope Anderson, of Fulham, London, and Maxine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A. King, of Edmonton, London.

Mr J.C. Cunningham-Jardine and Miss A.M. Hopwood
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Captain and Mrs Ronald Cunningham-Jardine, of Fourmerkland, *Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire*, and Anne, only daughter of Lord Southborough and the late Lady Southborough, of Eaton Square, London.

Mr R.C. Harris and Miss S.M. Dixon Smith
The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Joe Harris, of Brackenburgh, Cumbria, and Susie, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Dixon Smith, of East Norton Hall, Leicestershire.

Mr L.H. Harwood and Ms M.D. Stone
The engagement is announced *between Laurence, second son of* the late Mr and the Hon Mrs A.C. Harwood, of Forest Row, Sussex, and Melissa, middle daughter of *Donald and Andrea Stone, of San* Francisco, California.

Mr A.P.T. Henderson and Miss C.E. Perry
The engagement is announced between Anthony, only son of the late Mr Ian Henderson and of Mrs Imelda Henderson, of Crawley, Hampshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Perry, of Chiswick Mall, London.

Mr J.R.W. Hodgson and Miss A.J. Puckrin
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Ronald Ward, son of Mr and Mrs John *S. Hodgson, of Carfrae*, Berwickshire, and Alison Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs John W. Puckrin, of New Marske, North Yorkshire.

Mr L.M. Katz and Miss G. Golde
The engagement is announced between Laurence, elder son of Dr and Mrs Gary Katz, of *Hampstead, London*, and Galit, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Haim Golde, of Herzlia, Israel.

***Mr J.C. Lange* and Miss A.J.A. Street**
The engagement is announced between Christian, only son of Mr and Mrs James Lange, of High Barn, Limington, Yeovil, and Anika, only daughter of Mr and Mrs George Street, of Berwick St James, Salisbury.

Mr N.R. Line and Miss A.J. Glenn
The engagement is announced *between Nicholas*, son of Mr and Mrs K.M. Line, of West Chiltington, Sussex, and Amanda, daughter of Mr M. Glenn and the late Mrs Glenn and stepdaughter of Mrs M. Glenn, of The Hale, *Buckinghamshire*.

Mr D.C. Maunder and Miss J.E. Rowland
The *engagement is* announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs J.W.M. Maunder, of Chazey Court Farm, Mapledurham, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas T. Rowland, of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Mr N.S. McAlister and Miss S.F.J. Holland
The engagement is announced *between Niall*, elder son of Mr and Mrs Allan McAlister, of Bangor, County Down, and Sarah, younger daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Michael Holland, of Bramhall, Cheshire.

Mr A.K. Molony *and Dr S.J. Greaves*
The engagement is announced between Andrew Kevin, second son of Drs Marcus and Pauline Molony, of *Westbere*, Canterbury, Kent, and Susan Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs H. MacDougall Greaves, of Broadstairs, Kent.

Mr P.J. Swain and Miss R.M. Owen
The engagement *is announced* between Patrick, son of Mr and Mrs James Swain, of Bristol, and Ruth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frederick Owen, of Oswestry, Shropshire.

Lieutenant* I.M. Whittingham *and Miss J.C.L. Sampson
The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Iain Whittingham, The Light Infantry, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Whittingham, of South Hiendley, West Yorkshire, and Jacqueline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Sampson, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

Mr N.F.G. Wickham and Miss K.C. Swan
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Professor and Mrs Glynne Wickham, of Clifton, Bristol, and Kate, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Hamish Swan, of Atlanta and Inveruglas.

Mr M. Yallop and Miss G.L. Pryor
The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Brian George Henry Yallop, of Ipswich, Suffolk, and Mrs Glenda Garside-Neville, of Harlow, Essex, and Georgina Louise, eldest daughter of Henry Charles Pryor, of Kensington, and Deirdre Ann Pryor, of Chiswick, London.

Marriage

***Mr M.B. Hutchings* and Mrs V. Moger**
The marriage took place in London on Wednesday, April 8, 1992, between Michael Balfour Hutchings, son of Ann and the late Ben Hutchings, and Victoria Moger, daughter of Tony and Rosemary Trollope.

Birthdays today

Lord Brookes, 83; Sir Anthony Cleaver, chairman, IBM UK, 54; Mr Aidan Crawley, former chairman, London Weekend Television, 84; Earl De La Warr, 44; *Vice-Admiral Sir Alastair Ewing*, 83; Mr Patrick Garland, theatre and film director, 57; the Earl of Granard, 77; Mr A.M. Henri, former president, Liverpool Academy of Arts, 60; Mr J.H. Holroyd, First Civil Service Commissioner, 57; Miss Gloria Hunniford, broadcaster, 52; Professor Kathleen Major, former principal, St *Hilda's College, Oxford*, 86; Mr Stan Mellor, racehorse trainer, 55; Mr David Moorcroft, athlete, 39; Lord Morton of Shuna, 62; Sir Robert Rhodes James, former MP, 59; Mr Omar Sharif, actor, 60; Mr Christopher Stoddart, managing director, Sunrise Television, 42; Mr Paul Theroux, writer, 49.

CROSSWORD

Answers from page 10

METRICIAN
(c) One who writes in metre, or studies or is learned in metre, from *metricus*, copying physician: "Why are you trifling with the metricians, deceiving with the poets, and deceived with the philosophers?"

EXUVIATE
(b) To cast or shed exuviae: "The young crayfish exuviate two or three times in the course of the first year. Crabs of mature age and full size cease to exuviate."

QUINCUNX
(a) An arrangement or disposition of five objects so placed that four occupy the corners, and the fifth the centre, of a square or rectangle, from the Latin *quinque* five + *uncia* an ounce: "They sing Quincunx of the Hyades upon the neck of Taurus."

FIRKIN
(a) A small cask for liquids, fish, butter, etc., originally containing a quarter of a barrel, from MDutch *ferdekyn* a fourth part: "The farm labourer carries his day's allowance to the field in a sort of miniatare cask called a firkin."

OBITUARIES

RONALD EYRE

Ronald Eyre, stage and television director, died on April 8 aged 62. He was born in Yorkshire on April 13, 1929.

THEATRE directors are not by nature a reticent breed. Ronald Eyre was the exception. He was shy, at times almost reclusively so, apprehensive about being watched and judged by friends and critics alike. He could not pretend, as others could, to care nothing of first night notices. Indeed first nights were often a penance and on more than one occasion he could not bear to attend his own.

Ronald Eyre once described himself as a perennial new boy. He worked, usually with considerable success, for many of Britain's major companies: the Royal Court, the RSC, the National, Covent Garden. But he was a member of none of them and he never had the air of being a potential "company man". When it looked as though he had found his exact directorial niche — and he was just as likely to be found in the commercial theatre as in the subsidised one — he would slide away from it and surface somewhere quite different.

There was rarely in Ronald Eyre's career a feeling of natural progression, of success leading to success. In 1982 he was entrusted by Covent Garden with a prestige production of Verdi's *Falstaff*, which marked Carlo Maria Giulini's return to opera in the theatre. It had opened in Los Angeles and was in part responsible for that city's decision, later, to found its own opera company, it came to London and went on to Florence. It was an autumnal view of Verdi, introspective rather than rumbustious, and one much favoured by Giulini, with whom Eyre got on well. But the musical offers did not flow in thereafter as might have been expected. Seven years passed before Eyre directed another opera in a major house, *Peter Grimes* for Opera North.

The complex and often elusive character of Ronald Eyre had its roots in Yorkshire. He was a coalminer's son and, pushed quite

hard by his parents, won his way to Oxford via intelligence, hard work and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield. In some ways he resembled his fellow Yorkshireman Alan Bennett, two of whose plays he was later to direct in the West End (*Habeas Corpus* and the enigmatic *Enjoy*). He shone quite brightly at OUDS among the likes of Peter Parker and John Schlesinger, but drifted into teaching in the North of England, where Russell Harty was among his pupils.

Harty once wrote that Eyre was an inspiring master, but four years of dealing with less reponsive students was enough for him. In 1956 Eyre landed a job through an advertisement as a BBC drama director, mainly, he claimed, because he had already been turned down by the BBC's appointments board. That, the drama head at the time reckoned, was an excellent qualification. The BBC proved to be both training ground and stepping stone: Eyre learnt that to succeed a certain amount of guile was necessary and he became wary, even suspicious, of those around him. He wrote his own plays, for both radio and television, including a number of adaptations from Russian stories, and he began to understand the complexities of casting. He was meticulous in this latter area when he moved into the commercial theatre and some of his best productions, such as *When We are Married* (Whitehall, 1986), were marked by the attention he gave to even the smallest role.

He made his directorial debut at the Birmingham Rep and then soon found his way, like his fellow North countrymen and contemporaries John Dexter and Bill Gaskill, to the Royal Court, then home of all true theatrical liberals. There he made a success of his first production, *Three Months Gone*, a Donald Howarth comedy which paired Diana Dors and Jill Bennett. Earlier he had attracted some critical attention with a play about a young soldier by John McGrath at the Hampstead Theatre Club, *Events While Guarding the Bofors Gun*.

At the Court his biggest — and most controversial — success was *Veterans* by Charles Wood. It starred John Mills and John Gielgud as two dyspeptic actors on location in a big-budget movie. Insiders immediately recognised this as Tony Richardson's *The Charge of Light Brigade*. Sophisticates at the Court were not worried about some outspoken language (for those days) from the lips of the two theatrical grandees, but out-of-town audiences had been less open-minded on the pre-London tour and *Veterans* did not get its expected West End transfer.

In the same year as *Veterans*, 1972, Eyre had a success of a very different kind with the revival of a forgotten comedy by Dion Boucicault, *London Assurance*. This and *Much Ado* were the best of a number of productions he did for the RSC both at Stratford and at the Aldwych. For Boucicault he used his own skills as a playwright to remove quantities of fustian dialogue in restructuring a creaking melodrama to contemporary taste. Bolstered by performances by Donald Sinden and one of Eyre's favourite actresses, Elizabeth Spriggs, the results delighted Aldwych audiences and showed that Eyre the writer was just as skilful as Eyre the director.

The same talents were on view in his first venture into opera after he had spent much of the mid-Seventies on a massive series for BBC2 on the religions of the world, *The Long Search*. The opera was Berlioz's *Beatrice and Benedict*, a work reckoned to be fine on the concert platform but full of pitfalls in the theatre. At the Buxton Festival, then only in its second year, Eyre covered over those holes with quite a lot of his own words. Drawing on the experience of that RSC *Much Ado* and realising the potential of a husband-wife team soon to become famous, Ann Murray and Philip Langridge, his first opera production was also probably his best.

In the Eighties Ronald Eyre could not always summon up the sureness of touch he had shown in the previous decade. A *St Joan* for the National was a failure and there is little doubt that he was wounded by the fact that *Falstaff*, by which he had set much store, did not bring an attractive return invitation from Covent Garden. But there were successes, notably a revival of John Osborne's *A Patriot for Me* (which he could well have seen during his Court days), and Priestley's *When We are Married*. He worked with Ronald Harwood: *J. J. Farr* had only a modest run despite the presence of Finney, and only last year he directed *The Dresser* in Tokyo. His final West End production was *A Walk in the Woods* (Comedy, 1988) with Alec Guinness giving a feline performance as the diplomat, Botvinnik.

Last year most of Eyre's work was done for television, principally religious programmes made for both the BBC and the commercial channels. In some ways this marked a return to his continuing interest in matters spiritual, his own and those of others, which he had explored 15 years ago in *The Long Search*.

HAROLD ROMBERG

Harold Romberg, OBE, judge at the Supreme Restitution Court in Germany, died at his home in Bath on March 17 aged 79. He was born in 1913 in Vienna.

HAROLD Romberg was the longest serving British official in post-war Germany. He served there with the army, the Control Commission, and the British military government in Berlin from the beginning of allied occupation in 1945 until reunification in 1990.

Born of British parents in Vienna, he grew up in Austria where he qualified as a lawyer. In 1938 he moved to England and shortly afterwards joined the British Army. While in the army he read for the English Bar.

In 1945 he went to Germany to work in the administration of justice branch in the British zone of occupation, and then set up the Central Legal Office which was effectively a ministry of justice. Here he was responsible for the review of all German ordinances in the British zone and the vetting of appointments of senior German judges. After leaving the army he remained with the Control Commission as a senior legal assistant and in 1950 moved to the office of the legal adviser at the UK high commission in Bonn, where he advised on German and allied legislation.

In 1953 he transferred to a Foreign Office legal appointment in the British military government in Berlin, where he set up the Supreme Restitution Court for Berlin and served as its registrar. This court, with its British, French, US and German judges and a Swedish president, handled more than 7,000 cases of claims for the restitution of property expropriated by the Nazis.

Harold Romberg remained in Berlin with the court and in 1974 assumed additional responsibilities as legal adviser to the British military government. In 1988 he was appointed a judge in the court in Berlin, as well as in the Supreme Restitution Court in Munich, an amalgamation of the three former zonal courts. Although working from his home in Bath since 1985 he continued to travel regularly to Germany to work in both courts. With the reunification of Germany and the cessation of allied powers, the courts were handed over to the federal German ministry of justice.

He was the author of the German official history of the Restitution Court, and of a concise and popular overview of the English legal system in German. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

MILTON RACKMIL

Milton R. Rackmil, who was a co-founder of Decca Records and led the Universal Pictures studio in Hollywood for two decades, died after a stroke in a Manhattan nursing home on April 2 aged 89. He was born in New York City on February 12, 1903.

MILTON Rackmil was a man who rose to success by defying popular predictions. In the 1930s, when the general view held that the expansion of radio would sound the death knell of gramophone records played in the home, he guided Decca to phenomenal success. In the 1950s, when head-shakers foretold the extinction of the film industry with the rise of television, Rackmil plunged into the fray and transformed Universal from a producer of B-grade movies into one of the most successful studios in Hollywood.

Born on the Lower East Side of New York, the son of a carpenter, and growing up in Brooklyn, Rackmil started the hard way. As a boy he earned pocket money by selling chewing gum and shining shoes.

He took night classes at the University of New York, studying to become an accountant, and joined the Brunswick Radio Corporation in Manhattan in the early 1920s. He rose to the post of chief comptroller and general manager of the company's plant in Pennsylvania, and helped to form the Brunswick Record Corporation in 1932.

Believing that the growth of radio would spur demand for records, Rackmil branched out on his own in 1934 and founded Decca Records with the help of two partners. He began as treasurer, became vice-president in

1945 and graduated to president in 1949.

From the outset, while other companies were trying to save money by employing little-known performers, Rackmil pursued a policy of going for the top names. Before long, Decca's stable included Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, the Andrews Sisters and virtually every major star of the swing era. Their records, in the old 78 rpm format, were sold for 35 cents, with a hit tune on each side, and Rackmil went on to pioneer the new, unbreakable, long-playing records.

Decca began to dominate the industry to such an extent that it attracted the wrath of the federal government. Together with its associates, Decca Records of London, and Deutsche Grammophon, the company faced an antitrust suit charging that they had divided up international markets in a non-competitive cartel. Decca surrendered, and the practices were ended after a consent decree in 1952.

Rackmil, meanwhile, was turning his attention elsewhere. In 1951 Decca had become the largest shareholder in the Universal Pictures Company, and he moved to take over as president in 1952. It was a troubled time for Hollywood: in addition to the threat of television, the studio-contract star system was breaking down and productions were becoming ever more expensive.

At the time Universal was turning out less-than-epic pictures, such as *Ma and Pa Kettle* and *Francis the Talking Mule*. Rackmil changed all that, later believing that video and the cinema would be as complementary as records and radio had proved.

The films became bigger and slicker, attracting such stars as Cary Grant, James Stewart, Kirk Douglas, Doris Day and Rock Hudson. Among them were *Spartacus*, *The Glenn Miller Story*, *That Touch of Mink*, and *Pillow Talk*.

There were problems, including a proxy fight at Decca in 1954 and a reversal of fortune at Universal in the winter of 1957-58 when he shut down production and fired hundreds of workers. But Rackmil survived to see the takeover of both companies by MCA in 1962, and remained at the head of both until his retirement ten years later.

Milton Rackmil's first marriage ended in divorce. He is survived by his second wife and the daughter of his first marriage.

APPRECIATIONS

Isaac Asimov

MAY I add a rank and file appreciation to your comprehensive and sympathetic obituary of the master ? In my review of the science fiction scene for a very early issue of *New Scientist* some thirty years ago, I had called the genre the "jazz of literature" and thus Asimov (obituary April 7) may well have been the Gershwin of letters, though perhaps it would be more fitting to call Gershwin the Asimov of music!

While people like Cernsback, Campbell, Clarke and Heinlein gave modern science fiction its overall form and content, it was Isaac Asimov who best personified the ordinary *aficionado*. His polymath approach was to us the perfect antidote to the tyranny of overspecialisation. His consistent clarity was rare and welcome relief from pretentious jargon. And the breadth of his humanity and humour has counteracted (and will long continue to do so) the false certainties of the single issue fanatics.

Ian Menzies

ISAAC Asimov wasn't just a writer of science fiction and popular science. He was a convinced and committed rationalist and humanist.

He was very active in the freethought movement as a member of the American Humanist Association (and on the editorial board of the American Humanist magazine), of the prestigious Academy of Humanism, and also of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal; and he was a prolific writer and speaker in magazines and at conferences.

Nicholas Walter

Lord Havers

IN CONNECTION with your obituary of Lord Havers (April 3) it is frequently overlooked that the Law Officers not only advise the government of the day in England and Wales but that they also have responsibility for doing so in Northern Ireland. This is a most demanding duty involving much travelling.

In the Heath government of the 1970s Sir Michael Havers (as he then was) was Solicitor General from 1972 to 1974 and, together with the Attorney, was assiduous in his duties in extremely difficult cirucmstances. I well recall the skilled yet practical advice which ministers then received, and I formed a lasting admiration for his abilities. His company on the journeys to Northern Ireland was always looked forward to. It was enlivened by his encyclopaedic knowledge of the brothels of Alexandria, knowledge I hasten to add not gained from personal experience, but rather from having to extricate his sailors back to his ship during the war.

Sir William van Straubenzee, MBE

Sir Richard Smeeton

WITH reference to your obituary of Sir Richard Smeeton (April 6), at one of the last traditional Fleet Reviews at Spithead in the 1960s, at a time when the then Conservative government had decided to make drastic economies, particularly in the Navy, an impressive massed flight of all the Fleet Air Arm Squadrons in the area was arranged. It took place before the assembled ships departed and, pilotted by Admiral Smeeton in the leading aircraft, proved the most effective protest possible against the government's policy.

No one present could fail to be affected, both then and later, when the Admiral retired early — quite possibly in protest.

Cdr H. St A. Malleson, RN (Retd)

April 10 ON THIS DAY 1935

Two actors making "a labial imitation of a vulgar revue noise" in a revue sketch entitled "Epstein commissioned by Mr Bernard Shaw" was thought to be offensive when it came to the attention of the Lord Chamberlain at a time when that official had the power to decide what was seemly on the stage and what was not. The Theatres Act of 1968 removed his power.

PROSECUTION BY THE LORD CHAMBERLAIN

A number of summonses issued at the instance of the Lord Chamberlain concerning two sketches in the *revue Stop Press* at the Adelphi Theatre were dealt with by Mr. Dummett at Bow Street Police Court yesterday.

Fines of £50, with £2 5s. costs each, were imposed on Mr. CLIFFORD WHITLEY, presenter of the *revue*; Mr. HASSARD SHORT, the producer; Mr. JOHN GREENHILL, general manager of the Adelphi Theatre; and Mr GREATREX NEWMAN, an author, for presenting, causing, or suffering the sketches to be presented before they had been allowed by the Lord Chamberlain. Other summonses for causing the sketches to be presented after they had been disallowed by the Lord Chamberlain were withdrawn by the prosecution.

A summons against Mr. THOMAS HENRY BOSTOCK, licensee of the theatre, to show cause why his licence should not become void or suspended for any specific period, was adjourned for a week for the magistrate to consider his decision.

Mr. DUMMETT said that in his opinion there had been a deliberate and grave infringement of the law. He could not refrain from thinking that this was deliberate and rehearsed, and pefectly well known to the defendants in the first four summonses. In one instance there was objectionable vulgarity, and the other was sexually offensive. Mr. Bostock was a busy man, the controller of eight theatres but no business man of his capacity would fail to take steps to make him perfectly cognizant of what was going to be produced.

Mr. A. Lawson-Walton, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, said that the script of *Stop Press* was submitted to the Lord Chamberlain on January 29 and was licensed by him subject to certain alterations. The summonses related to a part of two sketches. The first was entitled, *Epstein Commissioned by Mr Bernard Shaw*. The sketch, as licensed, concluded with the words spoken by an actor representing Mr. Bernard Shaw, "No. I am adapting *Back to Methuselah* as a talkie short." As the sketch was presented, the actors, after speaking these words, returned to the stage and informed the audience that they were going to make a joint broadcast to the English-speaking people. A hand microphone was produced, and after some whispered words, both actors made a labial imitation of a vulgar noise.

The whole thing must have been very unpleasant to two highly respected public characters, and it was inconceivable that this sort of thing could be tolerated.

The second sketch represented a society wedding, and in the first part there was a bedroom scene, followed by a mock marriage service.

Mr. Harold Murphy, for Whitley, Short, and Newman, said that they would plead "Guilty." The prosecution he pointed out, referred to two brief incidents in a play which occupied three hours and which was otherwise not objectionable. There was no charge of obscenity. On behalf of his clients he tendered a most unqualified and absolute expression of regret for having infringed the rules of the theatre licence.

Law Society final examination results in winter 1992

Part A

The following students have successfully completed the Final Examination of the Law Society, winter 1992.

Abbott M; Acheson C M; Agbejule F; Ahmad K A; Ahmed Z; Alila M J; Akhtar U; Al-Khafaji B; Alan M I; Alexander M A; Alexandrou M; Ali T; Allen J; Allweis J; Alstrom A C; Andrews S E; Anwar B; Apaw K A; Argyrou F A; Armstrong M D; Arnold B; Arthur N J; Arulampalam P P; Asharal M J; Aspinall A R; Atkinson C M; Atkinson P D; Ayles P J; Ayre V F.

Baba N; Bachu P N; Bagilleno S A; Bailey W A; Baker A L; Balls A J; Bamsey M L; Banks T E; Barnett C M J; Baron S J; Baser C; Bashir P A; Basi S S; Beaton M J; Beckley M B; Bedeau J; Beedel M W; Behr S A L; Belrne H A; Benn M F J; Berman F R; Bernard C J; Bernstein L S; Bess N S; Beresh P A; Bezant J; Bhatia B S; Bhatti A S; Biglin H; Blomfield A C L; Bolc A K; Bolland D; Bond S J; Bott J R; Boustead L A; Boyle J A; Boyt R N; Bracey J A; Brassil L A; Bratley S G; Brehony P D; Brennan L J; Brewer N J; Brienza A; Britain R P; Broughton K J; Brown C N; Brown M P; Brown R H; Budd I A; Bulgur J L; Bulley C A; Bullick S M; Burland L; Burrows D M; Burstow A M; Byrne P K.

Cabral C C; Cameron J J; Campbell-Taylor R H; Cannings N; Cardona G M; Cargill K R; Carter D A; Chan A P L; Chan J T Y; Chan P K; Chan W B; Chana A; Chana J S; Chandler C E; Cheah J Y; Cheng W F; Cheung K C D; Chew J S; Chime O; Chin P H; Clark J E; Clark M C; Clark S M; Clarke P A; Claydon K S; Clifford D I; Clutton S; Coates W G; Colman J S; Connell N V; Conod R J B; Contractor R A; Coombes G D; Cooper S L; Corren P; Costley A M; Coulson A C; Cowell E V; Cuckson J L; Cumming S J N; Cusack L N; Cutchey V S C; Czarny Z.

Dahagher U M T; Daley J M; Daniel E M; Daniels A W K; Danter T A; Dare B J; David P V; Davies G; Davies J L; Davies R E; Davies S E; Davis C D; Dawes J T; De St Croix J A; De Vere Moss N J; Debenham K A; Deery M P; Denby R M; Desai T; Deunger R S F; Dokubo B E; Donaldson L A; Dow C A; Downie C R; Drinkwater S; Duah A; Dufficy R P; Duralsingam U; Dye L H.

Eckersley R C; Eckley P L; Edwards E A M; Edwards M A; Edwards M D; Ekwuru C U; Elkins I M; Elliott R F; *Ellis A; Elmitt R M C; Elstub A E A;* Essai A H; Ethelston F S L; Evans C; Evans S A; Eveleigh R J; Faircloth C J.

Faiz N; Fanning M L; Farrar P A; Farrell P J D; Fellows M; Feltham R H; Ferguson A W J; Fernandes S A; Findjan C A; Fisher K M; Fisher M J; Flaherty P D P; Fletcher A A; Flynn S T; Forbes J A G; Forde M A; Forster M J; Foy J M; Fraser N C; Freeman S H; French A E J.

Gait R S; Gallant S J; Gamble F C; Garland A N; Gaughan S A; Gaynor N J; Gee T P; Gengatharan M; Ghai R; Gibilaro M; Gill G S; Gillard J; Gillial G M A; Gillies M C P; Gilmartin P D; Glass C M; Glenville M J; Gnanathasan A; Goldberg D H; Golvala C; Goodfellow T J B; Goodley L; Gor B; Gordon V D; Graham J; Graney J H; Grant S M; Greaves D F M; Greenwood V M; Griffiths H C; Grimsley S.

Hall I T; Halsted D S; Hameed S A; Hampden C I; Hanks D R; Haralambous S; Hardman J D; Hardwidge E M; Harper F E; Harris A; Harris D J P; Harrison L; Harrison S A; Harvey P J F; Hathorn J H V; Hatton B A; Hawin J L; Haworth D M; Hayter M; Hayward J C; Head B R; Hedger R M; Hemingway R; Hendley A J; Henny C A; Hicks J D; Hill D D; Hilton S L; Hodges N P; Hogg D J; Hollette D N; Honick S J; Hope J C M; Horvath S T; Hosking D B D; Houghton L M; Howard M; Howe A S; Hubbard K L; Hughes C D; Hughes K J; Hugo C J; Humberston N; Hunt D T; Hurwood M A; Hussain R; Hussain S G; Hyam A E.

Igbinovia E M; Igwe E U; Irshad M; Irvine P J; Isherwood F J; Ivory R J.

Jackson J C; James S H; Jassub M E; Jen C W Y; Johnson I L; Johnson M J; Jonah M; Jones E S; Josephides S A; Juul P J.

Kelly M T; Kelly T J; Kendall J I; Khan S; Khan Y; Khanna S; Kharran D A; Khanter G S; Killen S A; Kirton A A; Kirton M C; Knight D A; Kong B; Kong Y C; Kularatne N T K; Kumaramoorthy T.

Lal A S T; Lai C A E; Laidlaw C A; Lam K H; Lancaster R; Lawrence F; Lebreton-Towell S; Lee B A; Lee C F; Leech W R; Leigh J E; Leivesley D; Leng A J; Leventhall S I; Lewis E T; Lewis E D; Lewis M J A; Lim W K M; Limatia S; Lindsay C; Lindsay J; Lippitt C A; Liversidge S C; Lloyd E M; Lloyd O T; London J; Lord G F; Lord M; Loveday P J; Lowe J; Lui D P Y.

Macdonald D J; Maddrell J B; Mahendra N; Mahindra A K; Mahmood J; Malik N U S; Man P K S; Mandla G S; Mankabady M G; Marby J A; Margrett S R; Mariathasan J R; Marlowe S R S; Marshall E; Marsland M A; Martin-Moreno J F; Marwick K I; Mason A J; Mayes G A; McAllinden J; McCarthy J; McConaghy C J; McCourt G S; McGarry M G; McGrath A G; McKee R J; McKendry S; McKisack S L; McLaughlin E F; McLean A L; Mell A J; Mewawalla S; Minion R H; Moffitt D M; Molineaux M K; Molyneux N R; Montague S C; Moore G M; Mordue C; Moreland J M; Morgan A D; Morgan S J; Morris D S; Morris S M; Morrissey E L; Morrow L C; Morrow M J R; Morton D P; Moyniihan M E; Muilholland M J F; Murphy A P; Murphy M M; Murrell J K; Mushin D J; Mychalkiw A; Myers S D.

Nelson C M; Nelufer F M; Newrick C W; Newsam S; Newton D A; Ng W L; Ni-Charthaig E M; Nicholson D M; Nickless H; Nixon D M; Norton D G; Norton K; Nwokedi F A.

O'Brady K S; O'Leary T J P; O'Reilly K M; O'Toole K A; Oates H E; Ong S K C; Osman S J; Owen M J; Owen P A.

Page S M; Palframan S C; Palmer M A; Pancholi V; Pang K L E; Pang T T C; Parkes S N; Parrott H M; Parsons T J; Parsons T N; Pascall C A; Pasha T A; Patel H; Patel H; Patel R M; Patel T; Pazlchi M; Pawlowski D; Pearson B A; Pendower K A; Pepin N; Perumal R; Peterson J A; Pettifer C F; Phillips H E; Phillips M P; Pinnock M G; Pinto R M; Pitt A J; Pol M C Y; Poku A B; Popat R; Porter S A; Pratt A G; Price V; Priestley R J; Prior A M; Pritchard D J; Prosser D L; Purdy J L.

Qureshi R.

Radia S; Raguz T V; Rajakariar J A; Rajbhakha M; Ramsey R A; Ranaweera K L N; Ray-Smith J P; Rees J M; Reeves F A; Reilly K T; Remedios C E; *Riddoch J; Robinson M;* Roestenburg A M; Rogers C M; Rogers Y D; Ross A M; Ross J A; Rostron A; Router L J; Rovati R; Ruck N S; Ruparelia N P.

Sahota J; Saleem M; Salfiti A; Salter A J; Sanderson W H; Sandhu S S; Santhiapillai J C; Savill B S; Schoon D J; Scott C H; Scott I D; Seal K P; Shah S M; Sharpley T J; Shaw H; Sheward K L; Shiels M P; Simons A M S; Simpson N; Singh B; Sinker C L; Sivaguru C; Smee S W; Smith A; Smith H E; Smith M R; Saanders C S; Soderstrom J B; Southall E M; Spalding G J; Sprague P C D; Squire L C; Srai R S; St Bernard J R; Stafford G E; Stonham B M; Stringer C E; Suchak P M; Sussman A; Sykes S M.

Taher J; Tailor B; Taylor A J M; Taylor E J; Taylor J D; Taylor P D; Thomas I R; Thomson M A; Thwaites A R; Tin H L J; Titcomb A B; Tonwe B B O; Topiwala A; Torre J C T; Travers G M; Trevillion R L; Triay J R; Trotman E V A; Tsang H Y A; Tung C; Turner J L.

Utridge E S J.

Van D Bund C R; Varney H J; Venables G R; Vickers A C I; Vincent N; Voss M E O.

Wadera S; Wakefield B A; Wallis L G; Walmsley J K; Walters K J; Wang A; Ward C A; Ward J; Ward S; Wardle C M; Watkins P; Watson L; Westbrook P A; Westwood J P; Whalley S J; White J E; Whitlock J C; Whitworth B C T; Wilcox T L; Williams A M; Williams J E P; Williams M A; Williams P; Willis S V; Wilson B M; Wilson M; Winston J M; Winter N C; Wintour R J; Wong C S; Wood A J; Woodhull A; Woodrow A J; Woodward G; Wotherspoon J; Wright J; Wyatt P D.

Yap S L N; Yates D M; Yates G P; Yenson Chu S; Yeung P H; Yusuf A O; Yusuf I B.

Zimmermann H J B.

Part B

The following students were successful in one or more papers but have not yet completed the Final Examination.

Afghan P K; Ahmed M; Ahuja S; Anand M; Ashworth C E; Aylwin S C.

Bale D D; Barker A P; Batchelor J M; Benady M M; Bisal K K; Bull T A.

Cahill J P L; Cartledge B M; Chandraker S H; Choda M K; Choudri F J; Clark M A; Clay S L; Constanti A; Cooper G M; Cowley D N; Cox M A; Critchley S; Crump N C.

Dale S M A; Dalling R; Davies J I; Doris-Raj U.

Earle-Hutton C C; Elliott P; Enobakhare H A; Everall F A.

Gay R; Giah K P K; Gooding E V A; Guss L A.

Haddad M A; Harvey M J; Hayles A U; Hignett V J; Hinnighan M E; Holmes S; Hunter A.

John S.

Kalaiya A P; Kaur Y; Keane D M; Kimpton P J; Kouke R A.

Lakhani B; Lall H K; Lambrianou B K; Le Roy F M N.

Man D Y W; McCarthy G A; McElroy P M; Mehta J J; Mertz S W; Morgan J G; Morpuss B; Morris P S G; Morris R.

O'Neill S K; Odaka G H; Odogwu K L; Ojikutu T T.

Pabla H A; Pan C C P; Pearson C J; Perveen S; Piranie H M; Prickett R M.

Rambally N K D; Ramtohul-Brindle S K; Redhead L K; Rees R S; Richards G E; Rochester S A.

Saigal S; Shafiq S; Shah M; Shewring J G; Sinion R I; Smith M M; Suranger K D H; Sutherland C J; Syme K F.

Townsend C A.

Vassel B F.

Wheat C L; Williams T D; Wong Y W.

School trips threatened by holiday safeguards

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A NEW European Community directive on package holidays may undermine town twinning and school exchange visits by placing impossible burdens on organisers, according to a travel industry lawyer.

Under the directive, which comes into force in December, any individual or group arranging a trip that includes at least one night abroad will be treated in the same way as a professional package tour operator.

Organisers will have to lodge with a third party a financial bond big enough to refund all the money paid by those making the trip and to cover the cost of bringing the whole party back to Britain in an emergency. Failure to do so could lead to criminal charges and unlimited fines.

Tim Robinson, a senior partner in the London law firm Nicholson Graham and Jones, which represents leading tour operators and travel firms, said the directive could prevent some schools organising foreign trips. "The principle of providing the maximum protection for the purchaser of a family holiday is laudable," he said. "What has not been properly foreseen is the effect on other groups."

The directive says that anyone who "otherwise than occasionally" organises package trips is covered by the new rules. A package is defined as pre-arranged combination of transport and accommodation sold for an inclusive price.

Mr Robinson said: "If a school, a local council or a chamber of commerce arranges three trips a year to a twin town, who is to say whether that is occasional or not? The courts will have to decide. In the meantime schools and local authorities would be well advised to play safe and take out appropriate insurance, or purchase a bond from a bank or an insurance company. Whichever they choose, the cost of trips will rise."

If the courts ruled that the directive applied in full to such trips, schools and councils would have little alternative but to hand over the organisation of trips to package tour operators, Mr Robinson said.

Although the travel industry would press for exemption for small scale organisers such as schools and councils, the issue might have to be tested in the courts before the law was clarified.

Mr Robinson, an authority on travel law, is preparing a paper for the trade and industry department on the implications of the new directive. The department said that the position of schools and councils was being examined and a final decision would be made by the incoming government.

Leading article, page 17

Record bets on election

Continued from page 1

the last polls changed the odds. Yesterday morning the Tories were hot favourites, but Labour were back as front runners by a neck by 3pm. Two hours later, they had lost their brief lead.

Paddy Ashdown remained at about 250-1 throughout to form the largest party, ending the day at 300-1. One customer in Wembley put £500 on him, which would have produced a profit of £125,000. Another punter has put £5 on the Natural Law Party commanding a simple majority. If there is a late surprise, he will collect £250,000.

Had Screaming Lord Sutch won in all three constituencies of Huntingdon, Islwyn and Yeovil, beating all three party leaders, he would have collected £5 million. He did not.

Lucky the punters who followed the advice of *The Times* last week who were recommended to do a double on Party Politics in the Grand National and one of various outcomes in yesterday's poll. The horse did the business at 14-1. Whatever result you combined it with, you will not do worse than a 20-1 payout as the results unfold.

TONY WHITE

On watch: Tom Rose, a Christie's director and model expert, casts a keen eye over a boxwood model of a 100-gun man of war made by a French prisoner early last century. The 9¼in by 13in warship is expected to fetch £15,000-£16,000 at a sale of Titanic and other maritime memorabilia next Tuesday

Poll shows voters prefer coalition

Continued from page 1

that Mr Ashdown would be best. However, only 1 per cent of Tory supporters think that Mr Kinnock would be the best leader of the country. Thirteen per cent of Liberal Democrat backers put Mr Major first and 9 per cent named the Labour leader.

Although the weather was fine in most parts of the country, there were a few hitches in voting procedures in some areas. Electors were forced to use a car boot as a polling station in Bishopsworth, Bristol, after vandals superglued the locks on the doors at the local voting point. In Lincolnshire two polling stations had to be covered in brown paper because the Tories complained that they had been painted in Labour's colours of red and yellow.

Northern Ireland went to the polls under the shadow of the gun, with thousands of armed police and troops guarding the 582 polling stations against IRA attack. If there is a hung parliament, the Ulster Unionists could hold the balance of power and would be favourites for an arrangement with the Tories. Although James Molyneaux, the Ulster Unionist leader, has said he will make no deals with whichever party forms a minority government, he has said that his party would not wish to inflict another early election on the public without good cause.

Home thoughts, page 2
Poll refugees, page 2
Diary, page 16

Guardian may buy Observer

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Guardian and Manchester Evening News group confirmed yesterday that it was interested in buying the *Observer* from Tiny Rowland's Lonrho, which is struggling to reduce its £850 million debt burden.

Pearson, publisher of the *Financial Times*, said it was not interested, and reports that Andreas Whittam Smith, editor of *The Independent*, last week offered Lonrho £16-£18 million for the Sunday newspaper were neither confirmed nor denied yesterday. Paul Spicer, Lonrho's deputy chairman, refused to comment, as did Mr Whittam Smith.

Mr Rowland, who has always taken a keen personal interest in *The Observer*, was away in South Africa all last week. It is thought that Lonrho would want at least £30 million for the title.

Dublin regrets abortion case

BY EDWARD GORMAN AND TOM WALKER

HARRY Whelehan, the Irish Attorney-General who personally took the decision to seek injunctions preventing a rape victim aged 14 from having an abortion in Britain, said yesterday he regretted the trauma it had caused.

Mr Whelehan, who was in Brussels seeking clarification from EC legal experts on a "solemn declaration" by member states acknowledging the right of Irish women to travel abroad to have abortions and to have access to information on abortion, said he had no doubt he was right to pursue the case.

"The Supreme Court and the High Court all said I had no option but to do that," he said. "In so far as I was doing my duty and had no option, I can have no regrets. As to the trauma it caused to individuals and generally, it is a matter of great regret to me."

The Attorney-General's statement came as Albert Reynolds, the prime minister, named June 18 as the date for the first referendum on the Maastricht treaty. Mr Reynolds had told the Dail last month that Mr Whelehan had upheld the constitution as he was bound to do. If an Attorney-General had turned a blind eye in such circumstances, how could he be trusted in other matters, Mr Reynolds had asked.

Mr Whelehan said his talks in Brussels yesterday had been helpful and positive. After the rejection by the EC of an attempt by Ireland to change its anti-abortion protocol to the Maastricht treaty earlier this week, Dublin has been forced to accept a declaration on the right to travel and to information, despite the fact that it will not be legally binding. The Irish government fears that a campaign by Liberals and by anti-abortionists could defeat the treaty when it is voted on.

The controversy arose after an interpretation of Ireland's constitutional ban on abortion by the Supreme Court last month [which is protected by the protocol to the treaty], which found that the rights of the unborn should take precedence over the right to travel, a view in contravention of EC law.

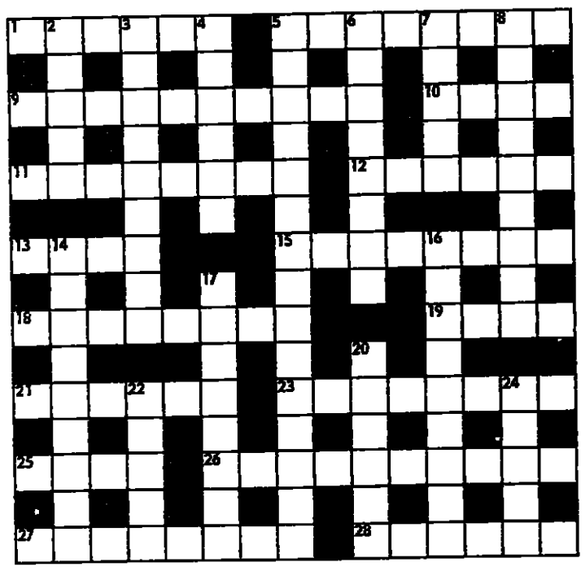
Mr Reynolds yesterday defended his decision to delay the travel and information referendum until after Maastricht. Speaking in the Dail he attacked what he said were "emotive and outrageous" statements by those attempting to turn the Maastricht referendum into a vote on abortion.

"It is in the interest of this nation and its people, and in our attack on unemployment and in farming and in all the areas down through every sector of this economy, that Maastricht gets a full and open debate," he said.

Opposition to the decision continued last night. The Progressive Democrats, the junior coalition partners, are known to be unhappy at the decision, which has also been attacked by Labour and Fine Gael. Niamh Bhreathnach, for the Labour party, said as a woman aware of the importance of the role played by the EC in improving women's rights, she wanted to support Maastricht. She said she was worried that the government might renegade on its commitment to hold a travel and information referendum at a later date.

Delors's warning, page 14

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,889



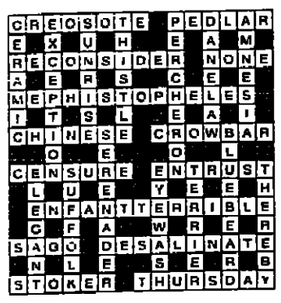
ACROSS

1 Leading policemen advanced quickly in rank (6).
5 Lydia left suffering (8).
9 Am I unable to use bar for support? (10).
10 Iridescent slug (4).
11 Generate reforms in youth (8).
12 Loathing getting warm out east (6).
13 Drop charge (4).
15 Tracks are known to the public (2,6).
18 Loser at Yorktown is missing in the south west (8).
19 Clever bishop invested in drink (4).
21 Pickle soft and easy to digest (6).
23 Fount where they throw man out, fellow interrupting tranquillity (4-4).
25 Group of five employed by governor (4).
26 One who occupies a leading place as an officer (10).
27 Firm beginning to accept law-breaking (8).
28 Utter a smothered exclamation about yobs (6).

DOWN

2 Brave, not hard and fast (5).
3 Sweet little boy, meeting small creature, endlessly beat it (3,3,3).
4 Yank overwhelmed by river in flood (6).
5 Station's loveliest porter could be... (9,6).
6 ... a goddess covering the right underground line (8).
7 Mounted group can be thrown (5).
8 Incorrigible cold nurse treated (9).
14 Softening me up till one struck (9).
16 One that sings very loudly in church after tea (9).
17 The chap to work on a scarf (8).
20 Phlegm always in the way? On the contrary (6).
22 Gorge, taking a breather during speech (5).
24 Fit worker into business (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,888



Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

METRICIAN
a. Harlot-like
b. A scholar of Merton
c. A writer of verse

EXUVIATE
a. To lay eggs
b. To moult
c. To cross-examine a defendant

QUINCUNX
a. Symmetrical arrangement of five
b. Whosoever
c. A warlock

FIRKIN
a. A small wooden barrel
b. A pine sapling forest
c. Heeling backwards at Wall Game

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE	
C London (within N & S Crcs)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

England and Wales will have a dry and mostly sunny day although patchy cloud is likely in the north later. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mainly cloudy with brief bright or sunny intervals chiefly in the south and east. Northwest and northern parts will be overcast with light rain or drizzle. Outlook: the dry and warm sunny spell in the south will be replaced by much fresher weather with rain or showers from the north.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder, d=drizzle, fg=fog; s=sun, si=sleet, sn=snow, f=fair, c=cloud r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	c	Luxor	37	99	s
Akrotiri	18	64	s	Madrid	14	57	s
Alex'dria	23	73	s	Majorca	14	57	c
Algiers	15	59	c	Malaga	19	66	s
Amst'dm	15	59	s	Malta	17	63	c
Athens	19	66	f	Miami*	29	84	s
Bahrain	27	81	s	Milan	14	57	f
Bangkok	36	97	s	Montreal*	6	43	s
Barbados*	30	86	f	Moscow	2	36	c
Barcelna	17	63	f	Munich	10	50	s
Beirut	18	64	s	Nairobi	24	75	f
Belgrade	13	55	s	Naples	14	57	r
Berlin	13	55	f	N Delhi	31	88	s
Bermuda*	21	70	f	N York*	16	61	s
Biarritz	13	55	c	Nice	18	64	s
Borde'x	16	61	s	Oslo	9	48	s
Brussels	14	57	s	Paris	14	57	s
Budapst	11	52	s	Peking	17	63	c
B Aires*	22	72	s	Perth	24	75	s
Cairo	23	73	c	Prague	12	54	s
Cape Tn	22	72	c	Reykjavik	-1	30	f
Chicago*	17	63	f	Rhodes	19	66	s
Ch'church	14	57	s	Riyadh	32	90	s
Cologne	15	59	s	Rome	18	64	f
C'phagn	8	46	s	Salzburg	11	52	s
Corfu	17	63	f	S F'risco*	16	61	s
Dublin	17	63	f	Santiago*	24	75	s
Faro	17	63	s	Seoul	24	75	s
Florence	14	57	c	Sing'por	32	90	f
Frankfurt	14	57	s	St'kholm	7	45	f
Funchal	17	63	c	Strasb'rg	14	57	s
Geneva	10	50	s	Sydney	18	64	s
Gibraltar	19	66	s	Tangier	16	61	s
Helsinki	1	34	s	Tel Aviv	21	70	f
Hong K	21	70	f	Tenerife	19	66	f
Innsbrck	11	52	f	Toronto*	9	48	s
Istanbul	16	61	s	Tunis	18	64	c
Jeddah	32	90	s	Valencia	15	59	f
Jo'burg*	25	77	f	Vanc'ver*	9	48	f
L Palmas	19	66	c	Venice	15	59	s
Le Tquet	14	57	s	Vienna	11	52	f
Lisbon	16	61	s	Warsaw	5	41	c
Locarno	12	54	c	Wash'ton*	20	68	s
London	16	61	s	Wel'mton	12	54	f
L Angels*	19	66	s	Zurich	11	52	s
Luxembg	13	55	s				

* denotes figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	7.1	-	14	57	sunny
Argyllsey	9.8	0.01	15	59	sunny
Belfast	4.6	0.21	13	55	sunny
Birmingham	7.1	-	16	61	sunny
Bognor Regis	8.9	-	16	61	sunny
Bournemouth	5.4	0.06	17	63	sunny
Bristol	5.4	-	17	63	sunny
Cardiff	7.5	-	16	61	sunny
Clacton	5.1	0.04	12	54	sunny
Colwyn Bay	7.7	-	12	54	sunny
Cromer	8.8	-	12	54	sunny
Eastbourne	9.4	0.04	14	57	sunny
Edinburgh	6.0	0.02	13	55	sunny
Exmouth	7.5	-	15	59	sunny
Falmouth	9.8	0.10	13	55	sunny
Folkestone	7.9	0.02	15	59	sunny
Glasgow	4.7	0.02	15	59	bright
Jersey	6.9	-	15	59	sunny
Kinloss	10.4	-	15	59	sunny
Leeds	8.6	0.11	16	61	sunny
Liverpool	8.3	-	15	59	sunny
London	8.1	0.02	17	63	sunny
Lowestoft	8.7	-	11	52	sunny
Manchester	7.9	-	16	61	sunny
Minehead	5.8	0.06	15	59	sunny
Morecambe	9.4	0.14	17	63	sunny
Newcastle	9.2	0.03	14	57	sunny
Nottingham	7.8	0.05	15	59	sunny
Penzance	4.2	0.15	14	57	bright
Plymouth	8.7	0.02	14	57	sunny
Poole	6.0	0.02	17	63	bright
Prestwick	6.3	-	16	61	bright
Salcombe	7.4	0.01	14	57	sunny
Saunton Snd	8.2	0.09	15	59	sunny
Scarborough	9.1	0.04	11	52	sunny
Scilly Isles	7.4	0.02	13	55	sunny
Shanklin	6.9	0.02	15	59	sunny
Southsea	8.1	-	15	59	sunny
Stornoway	8.1	-	12	54	sunny
Swanage	7.5	0.04	14	57	sunny
Teignmouth	5.7	0.01	14	57	sunny
Tenby	7.5	0.17	14	57	sunny
Tiree	8.8	-	11	52	sunny
Torquay	7.8	0.04	15	59	sunny
Wick	6.8	-	9	48	sunny
Worthing	7.8	0.05	17	63	sunny

Wednesday's figures are latest available

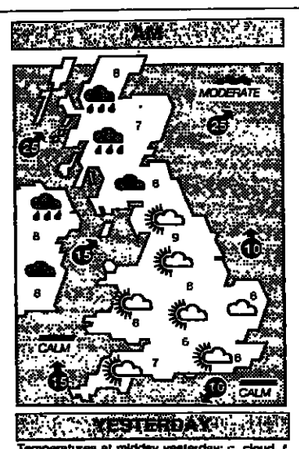
TOURIST RATES

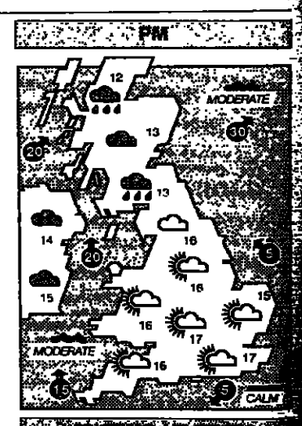
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.35	2.20
Austria Sch	21.05	19.55
Belgium Fr	61.05	57.50
Canada $	2.195	2.035
Denmark Kr	11.60	10.85
Finland Mkk	8.30	7.70
France Fr	10.11	9.41
Germany Dm	2.985	2.785
Greece Dr	349.00	324.00
Hong Kong $	14.09	13.09
Ireland Pt	1.12	1.05
Italy Lira	2255.00	2105.00
Japan Yen	248.25	229.25
Netherlands Gld	3.36	3.14
Norway Kr	11.79	10.99
Portugal Esc	255.50	237.50
South Africa Rd	5.40	4.80
Spain Pta	187.50	174.50
Sweden Kr	10.96	10.15
Switzerland Fr	2.735	2.555
Turkey Lira	11400.0	10400.0
USA $	1.84	1.71
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNB	140.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 17C (63F), min 6pm to 6am, 02C (36F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 10.0hr.





YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud, f, fair, r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	13	55	c	Guernsey	13	55	s
B'rmgham	15	59	s	Inverness	12	54	f
Blackpool	16	61	s	Jersey	15	59	s
Bristol	16	61	s	London	16	61	s
Cardiff	15	59	s	M'nchester	15	59	s
Edinburgh	15	59	f	Newcastle	16	61	s
Glasgow	13	55	c	R'ridaway	12	54	s

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday: Highest day temp: Cardiff, 17C (63F). Lowest day max: Fair Isle, Shetland, 09C (48F). Highest rainfall: Douglas, Isle of Man, 0.31in. Highest sunshine: Kinloss, Grampian, 10.4hr.

LIGHTING UP TIMES

London 7.49 pm to 6.13 am
Bristol 7.59 pm to 6.23 am
Edinburgh 8.10 pm to 6.17 am
Manchester 8.01 pm to 6.16 am
Penzance 8.09 pm to 6.37 am

Sun rises: 6.16 am — Sun sets: 7.49 pm
Moon sets 2.52 am — Moon rises 11.25 am
First quarter 11.06am

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 15C (59F), min 6pm to 6am, 01C (34F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.7hr.

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.21	6.3	7.43	6.0
Aberdeen	7.04	3.5	8.04	3.5
Avonmouth	12.13	11.1	12.53	10.6
Belfast	4.42	3.1	5.28	2.7
Cardiff			12.38	9.9
Devonport	11.37	4.3		
Dover	4.18	5.7	5.02	5.5
Falmouth	11.07	4.1	11.38	4.3
Glasgow	6.07	4.3	6.39	4.0
Harwich	5.13	3.5	5.37	3.3
Holyhead	3.49	4.8	4.39	4.5
Hull	11.52	6.2		
Ilfracombe	11.45	7.3		
King's Lynn			12.01	5.3
Leith	8.35	4.6	9.20	4.5

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	4.38	8.0	5.23	7.7
Lowestoft	3.09	2.1	3.16	2.1
Margate	5.27	4.3	5.55	4.1
Milford Haven			12.04	5.5
Newquay	11.02	5.6	11.36	5.6
Oban	11.54	2.7		
Penzance	10.51	4.3	11.25	4.5
Portland			12.21	1.3
Portsmouth	4.47	3.9	5.39	3.9
Shoreham	4.29	5.1	5.15	5.1
Southampton	4.27	4.0	5.19	3.9
Swansea			12.22	7.7
Tees	9.34	4.5	10.25	4.4
W'ton-on-Nze	5.10	3.7	5.33	3.5

Tide in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

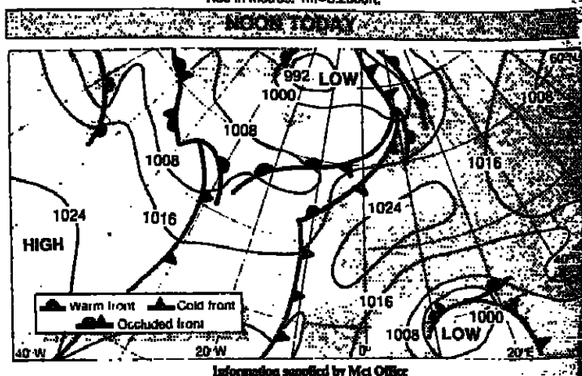
TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereford & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by Met Office

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THE TIMES

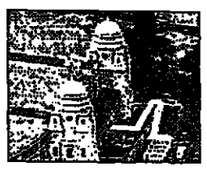
BUSINESS

FRIDAY APRIL 10 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

TODAY IN BUSINESS

SOUND OF MONEY



Wembley Stadium will host at least 13 pop concerts this year as it rocks back from a poor financial performance. Recession meant exhibitions lost money
Pages 22 and 23

ASSET TEST

Germany's Treuhand privatisation agency has lost DM2 billion to unscrupulous investors
Page 23

REIGN IN SPAIN

Expo '92 in Seville, the largest world fair, has provided a bonanza for British companies even before it opens
Page 22

TOMORROW

PROFILE

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, first non-Oppenheimer head of three South African companies, explains his successes and laments his one failure

RESULT REVIEW

Lindsay Cook, Weekend Money Editor, and her team look at the implications of the election result

Tokyo market drops below 16,000

Banks in firing line as Nikkei still plummets

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

THE collapse of the Nikkei index to below 16,000 gave financial executives a sleepless night as they toiled to work out the impact on their companies. They fear that if the Nikkei continues to hover around or below 17,000-18,000 the effects on Japanese corporations will be serious.

Yoshihisa Kitai, an economist at Long Term Credit Bank, said: "We can tolerate drops to 15,000 or even to 10,000 for a day or two, but if the Nikkei remains below the 17,000 mark for weeks on end, then the financial system is likely to come under considerable strain." The market showed worrying volatility yesterday, rising by over 300 points during the morning on hopes for a technical rebound, then plummeting in the afternoon to end down 577.38 points at 16,598.15. Arbitrage selling was blamed for the fall.

Economists expect volatility to continue until the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year that began this month. They believe the Bank of Japan and the finance ministry will introduce support measures if the Nikkei has not recovered and moved towards 20,000 by the middle of the fiscal year in September.

Mr Kitai said: "If the authorities' support does not arrive by that stage, then corporate Japan and particularly banks will be in a very serious position." Many market analysts have pointed out that the Bank of Japan's primary concern is with the health of the financial system as a whole and it can easily promote institutional buying to support the market if it feels this is in jeopardy.

In the short term, however, Japan's banks, already seriously hampered by bad debts, are feeling the pinch most acutely. The drop in the Nikkei has come at the wrong time, given that they must meet Bank of International Settlements capital adequacy requirements by next March.

The more the market falls, the slimmer their chances of meeting the BIS requirements. As the Nikkei falls daily, the banks must act now to bolster capital and cut down on asset growth. Many have already issued subordinated debt, which counts as capital under BIS rules. The 11 city banks between them raised Y2 trillion in subordinated debt during the last fiscal year and will have to raise substantially more to offset the effects of the falling stock market.

But even these enormous cash injections are still dwarfed by the potential write-offs of bad debt. Japanese banks are not obliged to publish figures revealing the extent of their bad or doubtful debt, but analysts' estimates of the combined bad debts of the 11 city banks range up to Y20 trillion (£87 billion).

Pre-tax and net profits, which take account of stock investment losses and loan write-offs, are expected to be well below forecasts for the 1991 fiscal year. Fuji Bank, for example, has forecast a 74.9 per cent decline in net profits to Y30 billion.

Human cost, page 15
Leading article, page 17

Action by Fed gives boost to Wall Street

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

WALL Street surged after a cautious start yesterday as the Federal Reserve cut interest rates on its funds in what is seen as part of a co-ordinated global effort to bring down rates and boost economic recovery.

The move came within hours of a cut in the Canadian prime rate from 8.25 to 8 per cent, and a cut in Japan is now widely expected. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which sank to its lowest levels for three months on Wednesday , rebounded sharply on the news.

By lunchtime in New York, 138 million shares had changed hands, sending the Dow up 33.10 to 3,214.45, and wiping out a third of the previous two-day 94-point loss. But some market strategists doubt whether the rebound will last if Tokyo continues to plunge.

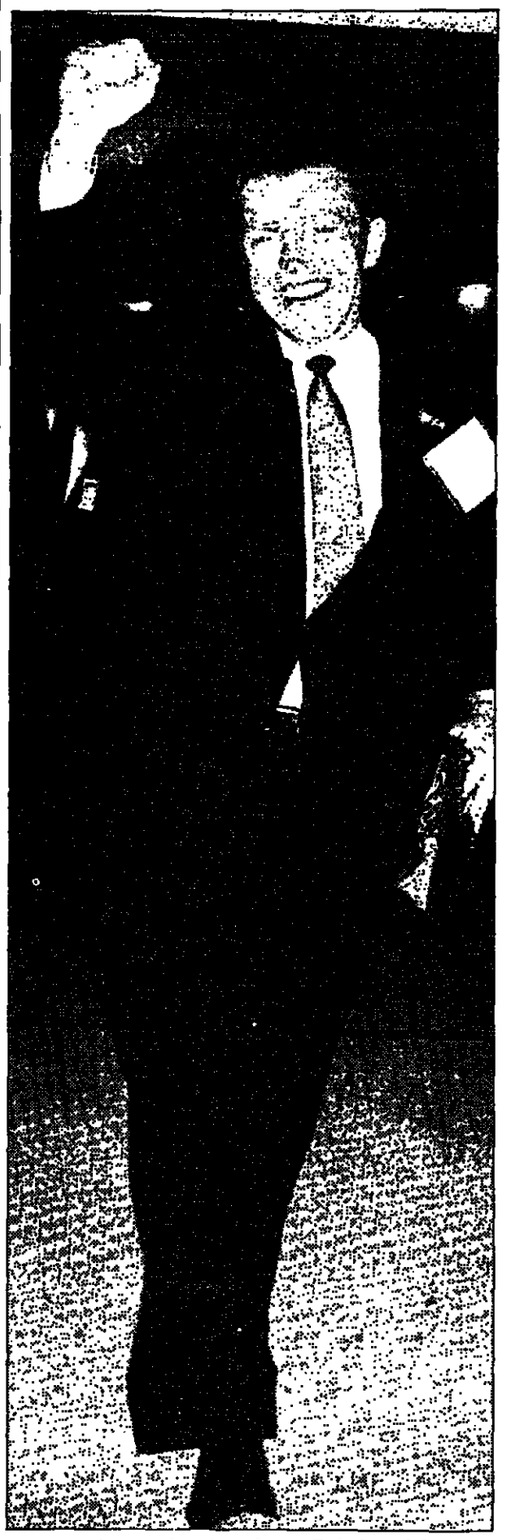
The plunge in the Nikkei index sent shivers through Wall Street earlier this week as traders feared the Japanese were selling their American positions to cover losses at home. That belief contributed to sales by large US institutional investors which sent the Dow to its lowest level since January.

But latest government figures show that America's inflation is under control — it gained 0.2 per cent last month. Credit market experts say there will be some delay before the Fed's cheaper money converts into more consumer spending.

They say that the American banks, burdened with problem loans, may delay passing on the lower borrowing rates, which for them fell by 0.25 per cent to 3.75 per cent yesterday.

Wall Street, page 24

American starts fare war



Power play: American's Bob Crandall

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN Airlines, which last year lost more than $40 million largely because of the downturn in domestic air travel, yesterday attempted to revive business traffic by cutting prices and reducing the number internal fares.

Passengers on many internal routes have been faced with up to a dozen different fares with a variety of restrictions depending on the time they travel. There will now be three fares, with prices 50 per cent lower.

The new fare structure, which cuts through the complex web that developed as airlines tried to meet the needs of small market niches, is initially confined to the North American market. Atlantic and other international routes are likely to benefit from the new structure within the next few months, provided the authorities agree and the experiment is successful.

Bob Crandall, president of American Airlines, said business travellers in America are tired of rising fares and a confusing system. "They have cut back on their travel because they think the system is just too confusing, and because it imposes what they regard as unacceptable conditions," he added.

"In order to get a good fare, many business travellers have been forced to. . .try to beat the system in ways they regard as ethically unacceptable but economically compelling."

From next week, the three fares will be: first class, which will be 20 to 50 per cent cheaper; AAnytime will be 38 per cent cheaper than existing economy-class fares; and PlanAAhead, which will require an advanced purchase of up to 21 days. Although not refundable, the tickets can be exchanged for a different flight on payment of $25.

"It's only fair to ask those who change their itinerary to bear the associated cost," Mr Crandall said.

The initiative by American Airlines, which is the biggest and most powerful airline in the world, will be closely watched by international rivals. Should the system be introduced on international routes — provided the authorities agree — the method of selling air tickets could be changed fundamentally.

Mr Crandall said: "Unhappily for us, many customers do not believe that air travel is very good value these days and we're out to win back their confidence."

Attali says EC must open up to the east

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

JACQUES Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, is urging the European Community to overhaul its common agricultural policy and to allow eastern European countries full access to EC markets.

He said that failure to open up western markets would threaten eastern Europe's economic reform efforts and would have dire political consequences. It could lead to a destabilisation of the young democracies, and even war.

In an interview with *The Times*, on the eve of the European Bank's first annual meeting of governors in Budapest next week, M Attali said the EC should arrange a multilateral trade pact to create a genuine common European market that encompasses the whole of eastern Europe, including Russia and the other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

He singled out agriculture, steel and textiles as three of the most important markets that the EC should open up to eastern Europe. The east would otherwise not have any significant export markets and the region's ability to earn hard currency through exports would be severely diminished.

M Attali said that "if the EC regards its CAP, steel and textiles regimes as inflexible and unchangeable, then the result might be frustration and war in eastern Europe, and we must not forget that eastern Europe was twice the origin of a world war."

He called for bold measures but conceded that the process faced formidible opposition. "There are some people who actually prefer eastern Europe to suffer from balance of payments deficits, since this is only the result of our dumping of agricultural surpluses," he said. "Instead we must open our markets. Do we really want to regard eastern Europe as a means of financing our own trade surpluses? Or, rather, do we consider that we have a role to play in its development?" He said closed markets would also pose an obstacle to western investment in the east.

Strangulation risk, page 25

Shares leap on polling day

BY RODNEY HOBSON AND PHILIP PANGALOS

THE City had a rush of blue blood to its head as investors gambled on the election result long before the polls closed.

Buoyed by hopes of a Conservative victory, buyers pushed the FT-SE100 share index 43.2 points higher to 2,436.4 by the official market close at 4.30pm. It was the biggest gain so far this year, with the market closing at the top. Volume reached 506.2 million shares.

Just as buyers seemed to be losing their nerve, a strong opening on Wall Street sent London prices surging again. Many punters who had sold futures contracts were forced to buy to cover bear positions.

The gains added about £8.6 billion to share values. The FT 30 index rose 31 points to 1,885.7. Gilts gained £⅝ and sterling held firm during London trading as fears of an interest rate rise receded.

The positive mood strengthened on rumours of exit polls favouring the Conservatives. One story that an exit poll showing a strong swing to the Tories had been conducted by Smith New Court was denied by the broker.

Privatised stocks led the surge, with the electricity package up £93 to £2,453 after hitting £2,523. Among distribution companies, Northern rose by 18p to 258p and East Midlands gained 15p to 237p. Most water shares were at least 10p better, South Western leading the way with a 19p leap to 338p.

Other sectors to find favour were life insurance and breweries. Prudential added 11p to 219p and Legal and General 10p to 335p. Bass was among the day's top shares, with a 21½p gain to 531½p.

ShareLink, Europe's largest execution-only private stockbroker, reported unusually heavy private client activity. Three fifths of deals involved buying, mainly of privatisation and FT-SE stocks.

Some equity market-makers provided a near-full service all night; others extended trading hours in American depository receipts. Forex dealers operated all night.

A busy London trading session is in prospect today. The Stock Exchange is due to open 30 minutes early. The latest inflation figures are also due.

Market report, page 24

St Paul's scheme withdrawn

BY MATTHEW BOND

PATERNOSTER Associates, the consortium made up of Greycoat, Park Tower Realty and Mitsubishi Estate, is expected today to withdraw its controversial scheme to redevelop the area around St Paul's Cathedral.

In February, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, called in both the Paternoster scheme and a second proposal put forward by Nuclear Electric, owner of an adjoining site. He said at the time: "It is essential the area is developed in a coherent way and to the highest possible standard."

Paternoster Associates and Nuclear Electric will submit a new master proposal for their combined sites.

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7472 (-0.0033)
German mark
2.8553 (+0.0134)
Exchange index
90.3 (+0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1885.7 (+31.0)
FT-SE 100
2436.4 (+43.2)
New York Dow Jones
3208.86 (+27.50)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
16598.15 (-577.38)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base. 10½%
3-month interbank 10 13/16-10⅝%
3-month eligible bills 10 15/32-10⅜%
US: Prime Rate 6½%
Federal Funds 3¾%*
3-month Treasury Bills 3.70-3.68%*
30-year bonds 101 9/32-101 11/32*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.7599	£: $1.7660*
£: DM2.8588	$: DM1.6210*
£: SwFr2.6301	$: SwFr1.4875*
£: FFr9.6854	$: FFr5.4910*
£: Yen233.18	$: Yen132.25*
£: Index 90.3	$: Index 64.5
ECU £0.715877	SDR £0.788334
£: ECU1.396888	£: SDR1.268497

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $338.40 pm $338.45
close $338.20-338.70 (£192.80-193.30)
New York
Comex $338.65-339.15*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) $18.95 bbl ($19.20)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.3 February (1987=100)

* Denotes midday trading price

1X

CBI opts for second audit chief

BY ROSS TIEMAN

THE Confederation of British Industry has chosen Howard Davies, the Controller of the Audit Commission, to succeed Sir John Banham as its director general.

Although Sir John also came from the Audit Commission, and both men previously worked for McKinsey, the management consultants, Mr Davies said: "I am younger and fitter and slimmer," when asked if he was a John Banham "clone" yesterday.

For a salary believed to be comfortably in excess of the £85,000 a year that he earns at the Audit Commission, the employers' organisation has hired a man with widely respected organisational and analytical skills.

As a scrutineer of local government, Mr Davies has a formidable record. But he has also demonstrated an independence, annoying Tory ministers more than once.

Davies: independent

His most public achievement in that post was perhaps the compilation of a report which said the community charge would prove an unsatisfactory and over-expensive way to finance local government. But his work was sufficiently robust that in 1990 the government included the NHS in the Audit Commission's remit.

Mr Davies, aged 41, was born the son of a Manchester architect who specialised in pub interiors. He was educated at Manchester Grammar and Oxford, where he studied history and French.

During the first year of his career, at the foreign office, he joined both the Labour party and the Diplomatic Service Association part of the First Division Association, a civil service union. Six months later he quit the service association (and, in consequence, the Labour party) in protest over its policy. "I have never belonged to a political party since," he said.

After a spell in Paris, he took an MSc in management in California, and joined McKinsey, the management consultants, in London. He worked for a variety of industries before being seconded to the Treasury as special adviser to Nigel Lawson in 1985 and 1986.

Questions about that period are cleverly deflected. "Look at the progress in the British economy during those years and what happened to it after I left," he said.

Mr Davies says his experience has taught him that there are better ways to influence policy making than "lobbing bombs over the wall" from the outside. "I think it is sometimes useful to be the enemy within," he said.

Already he has set himself two goals at the CBI. "It seems to me that the parties are saying the right things about the climate they wish to create for British industry," he said. "Our job is to hold them to it."

The other task is to increase the CBI's involvement in employer networks in Europe.

TEMPUS

Amec stands stronger than its rivals

AMEC must be blessing Costain Group for blazing the trail and revealing horrific losses and property writedowns on Wednesday, for Amec, too, is among that *select group of building companies* that raised cash in the mini-boom in share prices a year ago only to see those prices tumble.

The actual numbers are less dramatic in Amec's case. The group, which was formed a decade ago by merging *Fairclough and William* Press, spent the next five years battling against management problems and only thereafter had the confidence to tap the market for cash.

Last March, the group asked shareholders for £110 million on a one-for-four basis at 200p. The shares, 128p in March, yesterday perked up 8p to 146p amid relief that the 1991 figures were not worse.

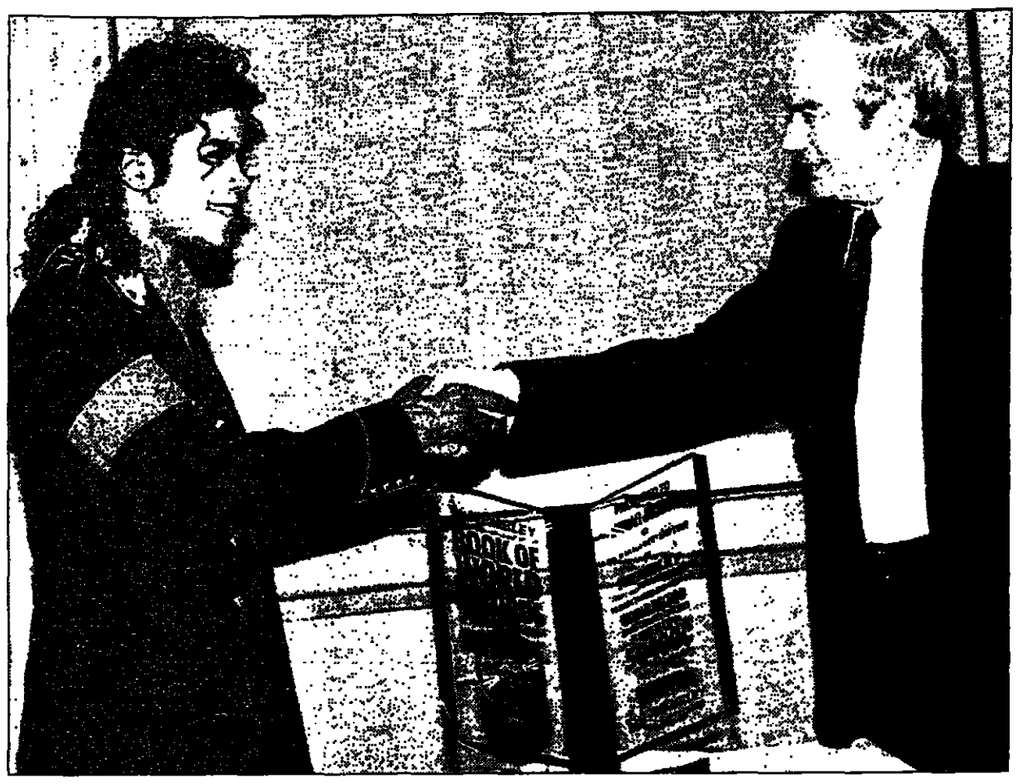
The company has spent £30 million on acquisitions but the rest of the rights issue money, intended for careful *expansion into* Europe, remains in the bank to form net cash balances of £76 million. Amec made profits before exceptionals of £50.1 *million in 1991, down* from £63.4 million but a creditable performance assisted by high levels of activity in onshore and offshore *mechanical* and electrical engineering.

But provisions of £40 million for housebuilding and £20 million on commercial *property values left a pre-tax* loss of £9.9 million. Amec marginally increased the halfway dividend and is holding the final payment. So *another £31.1 million*, funded, the company insists, from cash flow, goes out of the door again to those shareholders who put up the rights money.

In assessing the provisions, Amec has taken the sensible, if pessimistic, view that it must trade out its existing stock of housing over the next 12 to 18 months at whatever prices, rather than keeping the cash locked away in the business in the hope of some eventual upturn in the market. The write-offs represent about *£7,000 to £8,000 per plot to* be sold, and compare with about £10 million in both 1990 and 1989.

The dividend payment and *cash on acquisitions left cash* flow broadly neutral in 1991. The aim is to see half profits from overseas by 1995, against 20 per cent last year, *and there is no tearing hurry* to spend the cash, although two European possibilities have been identified.

Money in the bank safeguards the group's future through difficult times, but the shares, selling on about 15 times this year's earnings, look to have nowhere to go short-term.



Star turn: Sir Brian Wolfson with Michael Jackson who is giving five performances at Wembley

Wembley

THERE was no shock result from Wembley, although the surprise choice of election day for the announcement *may well have prompted* a heart or two to flutter. The company had issued a form guide at the time of its £37 million rights issue in January, *and this time it proved* accurate.

A pre-tax loss of £8.37 million, compared with the £13.2 million profit recorded in *1990, fell* comfortably within the £8.5 million loss forecasted in January. The board is keeping its dividend promise with a 0.9p final payment that makes 1.8p for the year, against 2.4p.

If the odd eyebrow were raised, it would have been in response to the strength of the conviction of Sir Brian Wolfson, the chairman, as to the group's performance in the current year.

Although Sir Brian has tended to err on the side of optimism on occasion, there is no doubting Wembley's *potential*. For instance, Michael Jackson will appear five times at the stadium this summer — more dates than the entire 1991 pop concert *programme — and should* help restore the venue management division to profits growth.

So should the doubling of five race dates at Denver's Mile High greyhound track, and the UK Budget's reduction in betting levy. Progress will be hampered, however, by poor, if improved, bookings for conferences and exhibitions.

Better news will be sought as well from the ticketing operations, reorganised and back in profit at the cost of a £3.2 million write-off last year, and from the Guild video distribution business, off to an "excellent" start thanks to record sales of *Terminator 2*, and with Michael Douglas's *Basic Instinct* to come in May.

Wembley continues slowly to unwind its debt, down to 65, per cent of shareholder *funds at the year-end*, and destined, Sir Brian confirms, for below 55 per cent. Bank support is assured, although evidently with the promise *that no more paper is issued* in the near future.

Profits of £12.5 million still look a reasonable goal for Wembley this year, to net *earnings of some 3p a share*. An 11.7 multiple at 35p looks high enough, at least until we know the half-time score.

Whatman

WHATMAN'S otherwise impressive eight-year earnings record came to an end in the year to December when pre-tax profits fell from £11 million to £9.21 million.

Trading margins on a turnover of £49.6 million (£44.6 million) were shaved from 23 to 19.3 per cent. The year's dividend rises from 7.75p to 8.7p a share, and Whatman plainly states that dividends will increase steadily.

The profits and margin setbacks, coupled with evidence that sales grew by 8 per cent at constant exchange rates rather than by 11 per cent, marginally dampened analysts' enthusiasm for the shares, which some say have *long looked* well ahead of events.

Whatman says of the 1991 setback that higher research and development spending — which had been well signalled — knocked at least two points off net margins, and that the recession must also take some of the blame.

A new specialised papermaking machine absorbed £2 million in capital expenditure, and there will be a further £2 million cost this year. The thrust to get new products into the laboratories of the world has also been a cost factor, but *the increased spending on* marketing appears to be paying off, and in the longer term should prove to have been very worthwhile.

Whatman yesterday made a $590,000 acquisition of a laboratory gas generator business involving the generation of purity hydrogen gas *that should do away with the* need to store hazardous gas cylinders. Whatman has great hopes about market potential, and believes the deal will mean a substantial boost to its gas purification division.

The years of receiving net interest appear to be over, though even after a £378,000 interest charge in 1991 gearing remains a modest 5 per cent. While an overall 24 per cent pre-tax return on capital employed is not to be sneezed at during a recession, stronger margins are needed before the peak profits of £11 million seen in 1990 are likely to be challenged.

This year, a pre-tax result around £10 million would not surprise. But at 423p on 15.6 times earnings, the shares are for holding rather than chasing.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Heron tries to settle bondholders' nerves

HERON International, Gerald Ronson's debt-laden property to car dealing group, moved to settle the nerves of holders of its £450 million of bonds by promising detailed financial information next week *about the* state of the company. Bondholders have been unsettled by the technical defaults on seven of the eleven outstanding bonds triggered by bank debt rescheduling talks. There have been some *complaints that bondholders have been left in the dark.*

Heron said that a memorandum containing all the key relevant information given to the banks would be sent next week to the fiscal paying agents of all 11 bond issues. The *news* seems to have stabilised the market in Heron's six Swiss franc bonds after earlier sharp price falls. Heron has £1.3 billion of debt, including £950 million of bank debt.

Norish improves

PROFITS are up at Norish, the Irish cold storage group, in spite of a substantially lower turnover. The year that ended last December produced pre-tax profits of Ir£2.2 million (£2.05 *million*) against Ir£1.5 *million previously*. Turnover was Ir£13.6 million (Ir£21.1 million), which reflects the sale of the distribution operations. Earnings per share are up from 12.3 Ir pence to 17.1 Ir pence, and shareholders collect a 7 Ir pence final dividend, giving them an unchanged 11.47 Ir pence total for the year. The group says that the results reflect improvement in its performance, with occupancies and activity remaining high in all areas.

Dixons makes US move

TONY Dignum is stepping down as financial director of Dixons, the high street electrical retailer, to devote more time to the group's loss-making American operations. He hands over to Robert Shrager, group corporate finance director. Mr Dignum was appointed financial director of Dixons Retail Group in January. Dixons has had a rough ride in America since it acquired the Silo retail chain for £240 million in 1987. Losses in the six months to December soared from £2.3 million to £10.9 million. Mr Dignum was president of Silo before returning to Britain. He will report to John Clare, group managing director of Dixons.

Record for Rathbone

RATHBONE Brothers, the private banking and financial services group, which is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, reports that pre-tax profits for last year rose 22 per cent to a record £3.1 million. A final dividend of 7.5p makes 10p (8p). Earnings per share increased from 22.1p to 26.6p. Oliver Stanley, the chairman, said that a move to a full quotation could well be in the interests of the group. The purchase of the Framlington private-client fund management business and the recruitment of five fund managers in Liverpool should boost revenues this year. Rathbone paid up to £3.5 million for the Framlington book.

Textiles curb Beckman

A SLUMP in profits from the textiles division has pushed down interim pre-tax profits at A Beckman from £686,000 to £556,000 for the half year to end-December. Profits from textiles fell from £353,000 to £173,000, but the company said that there was some indication of "slightly increased activity by customers". The property division increased its profits to £574,000 following rent increases agreed in the previous financial year. The interim dividend is being held at 1.63p. Group turnover for the six-month period fell from £6.7 million to £5.8 million.

Finance chief for Kingfisher

BY JON ASHWORTH

KINGFISHER, the Woolworth to B&Q group, has ended its four-month search to find a finance director to replace Archie Norman, who left to become chief executive of Asda in December.

His successor is James Kerr-Muir, aged 51, previ*ously managing director of* Tate & Lyle's UK division. He had been tipped to become chief executive at Tate & Lyle, last year but lost to Stephen Brown, former head of American operations. Kingfisher shares rose 15p on the news of the appointment and positive comments on the retailing sector by County NatWest.

Mr Kerr-Muir spent 22 years at Tate & Lyle, including a spell in the Eighties as vice-president, finance, with Redpath Industries, the group's Canadian arm.

He studied at Harvard *Business School with Geoffrey* Mulcahy, Kingfisher chairman and chief executive, and they have remained in touch.

Chemicals sector investing less

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

CAPITAL investment by the chemical industry, one of the few industries in which Britain is a world-class performer, *fell 13* per cent last year and is set to contract by a further 10 per cent this year. Companies have decided to cancel and postpone projects because the prolonged recession has caused weakness in demand, lack of cash flow and economic uncertainties, according to the Chemical Industries Association.

However, the industry's UK investments this year, at £1.76 billion, will continue to account for 31 per cent of all worldwide spending by companies operating in Britain. The overall cutbacks also con*ceal a shift towards increased* spending on research and development, especially for pharmaceutical companies.

The trends were revealed by the association's twenty-seventh annual investment intentions survey, one of the most reliable guides to trends in the industry. The survey is especially important because the industry is highly capital intensive, with long lead *times for projects*.

The association found that the downwards trend in investment spending was likely to be temporarily arrested in 1993, only to resume its decline in 1994. However, the association said that expectations for the third year of the survey were usually weaker because forecasting was more difficult.

In adjusting their spending, companies appear to be responding to a complex variety of pressures. Spending on petrochemicals and plastics, which last year took up the *biggest share of investment*, is set to fall, partly under pressure of persistent overcapacity in western Europe.

It will be replaced at the top of the investment table by pharmaceuticals, a sub-sector in which Britain is especially strong.

Harland Simon arm for sale

BY MARTIN BARROW

HARLAND Simon, a maker of process control and image processing equipment, is negotiating the disposal of its mechanical engineering operations to concentrate on electricals and electronics. Talks are taking place with several potential buyers.

The company launched a strategic review after David Mahony was appointed chairman in February. It says potential disposals could realise "well in excess of their collective book value". The shares rose 6p to 85p.

The company said a potential purchaser had signed a letter of intent to acquire Vickerys, which designs and makes equipment for the paper and water industries.

In February, Harland Simon gave warning that pretax profits for the year to March 31 would fall significantly below the £10.48 million it earned last time. That triggered a 55 per cent fall in its share price. The final dividend is held at 5.5p.

UK firms light a beacon at Expo

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN SEVILLE

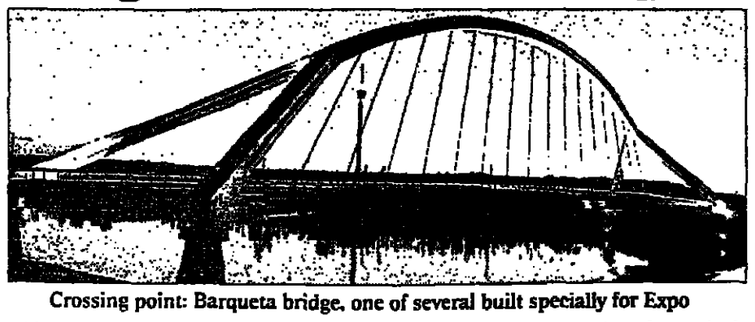
BRITAIN has already scored notable successes at Expo 92, the largest-ever world fair, which opens in Seville on April 20 and will run for six months.

The budget for the British pavilion is £28 million from the government and £5.1 million from almost 50 sponsors.

In addition, about 50 British companies are working on 30 other Expo sites, with contracts worth more than £20 million.

The British pavilion was one of the few that were finished in time for the official press preview this week. Most of the other 95 pavilions on the 215-hectare site were still negotiating an obstacle race to the opening.

The Expo's Spanish orga*nisers are so pleased* with Britain's gleaming, steel-and-glass building – which dominates one end of the European Boulevard and features a wall of cascading water — that they have asked for its lights to be kept on all night. Britain has been involved *with many other attractions* at the Expo, which is expected to draw 18 million visitors.



Crossing point: Barqueta bridge, one of several built specially for Expo

British Steel provided 1,000 *tons of steel for the British* pavilion, 3,500 tons for the Alamillo Bridge, one of Expo's landmarks, and 17,000 tons of rail for a new high-speed train link between Madrid and Seville.

Melville Exhibitions, of Wandsworth, south London, and Carlton Interiors, of Epsom, Surrey, both parts of the Carlton Beck Group, won contracts worth more than £7.5 million with features in the environment section of the pavilion devoted to the theme of the future, as well as the Andalusian region exhibit.

Britain appointed a commercial consul in Seville specially for the Expo. He is Joe *Cooper, who helped to attract* Silver Knight, of London, another interior design consultant, to the show. The firm gained contracts worth more than £4 million. "We hope this is just the start," Mr Cooper said. "The new infrastructure in Andalusia for *Expo should attract a lot of* new business here afterwards."

Fitch RS, of London, received a $15 million contract for the Saudi Arabian display. Imagination, a west London design and communications business, will need a *great deal of that to complete* the European Community's waterlogged semi-basement.

Electrosonic, of Dartford, *Kent, is supplying more than* 35 pavilions with equipment worth £6 million, including one of the world's largest video walls.

A total of 850 monitors, compared with 288 in the British show, are featured in Spanish Telecom's pavilion.

*"I have not had any indica*tion that a change of government could change the role of Britain at Expo," said Sir John Ure, UK commissioner. He emphasised the international networking benefits and "Rolls-Royce treatment" available for UK business *people and their guests in the* London Docklands VIP suite in the pavilion's penthouse.

Bundesbank urges EC to try harder in convergence test

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank has issued a warning that the European Community is in danger of failing to move towards the tough economic convergence tests agreed at the Maastricht summit.

Germany's central bank singled out its own nation as one of those that on last year's *performance would have* failed to meet the targets for the introduction of the single currency, which had been put in the treaty at the insistence of the Bonn government.

There was further bad news for the German economy yesterday, when public service *employers turned down* a 5.4 per cent wage deal recommended by arbitrators.

Their rejection of the offer, which includes a series of one-off payments, increases the likelihood of a full public sector strike. The interior ministry said the offer did not take into account general economic conditions "and thus cannot be a base for a solution to the conflict".

The employers had offered *a pay rise of 3.5 per cent*, while the unions demanded 9.5 per cent. The ÖTV public sector union said Germany would now have to face up to one of the toughest strikes in the country's history.

The Bundesbank said in its 1991 annual report that only *three countries would meet* the economic convergence test: France, Denmark and Luxembourg. Under the Maastricht treaty, at least six countries need to meet these standards if the single currency is to be introduced by 1997, the earlier date.

The two most crucial Maastricht tests require budget deficits of less than 3 per cent of gross domestic product, and a rate of inflation no *higher than 1.5 per cent* above the average inflation rate achieved by the three countries with the lowest rate.

Germany, once a bulwark of economic soundness, failed to meet the budget deficit target last year, but just managed to meet the inflation target with an average inflation rate of 3.5 per cent. This year, Germany will probably fail on both counts.

"A detailed review of the economic situation in the Community makes it clear what sort of additional efforts have to be expected on the *part of some member states*," the Bundesbank said, while falling short of naming particular countries. "The Community is still quite a long way away from the price stability which the treaty sees as a primary goal of monetary policy."

However, the Bundesbank was optimistic about the mark. The report said there was "evidence of confidence in the mark's ability to retain its value and in the price stability-oriented policy of the Bundesbank". The central bank said this had led to a *reduced risk premium on* long-term interest rates.

The report said recovery in eastern Germany was gathering pace, but predicted that taxes may have to rise again if spending was not reined in. "East Germany will remain dependent on help from the *west for longer than originally* expected."

Comment, page 25

Fraud in east costs Treuhand DM2bn

BY OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE weakness of the eastern German privatisation system was exposed yesterday, when the Treuhand agency admitted a loss of DM2 billion from fraudsters who capitalised on the area's economic misery.

The Treuhand, handling the east's privatisation programme, filed 150 criminal charges against unscrupulous asset strippers who bought eastern German companies cheaply, then immediately closed them and sold off land and other assets.

State prosecutors are investigating 50 cases, and the Treuhand has launched preliminary enquiries into another 200.

The agency said it lacked the staff to conduct proper investigations, while the prosecutor's office is faced with a similar situation. So far, only one case has been brought to trial.

The Treuhand's admission will increase the pressure on the agency, which has been heavily and widely criticised, to slow down the pace of privatisation and adopt a policy that would see restructuring take place first.

Prosecutors had also investigated fraud and corruption within the Treuhand itself, after senior managers were forced to quit over allegations that they sold off assets cheaply for their own benefit.

The increasing number of incidents involving fraud and corruption *highlights the difficulties* of a system that has pursued a policy of rapid privatisation.

Generating hopes: Jim Cole, chief executive of Dowding & Mills, the Midlands electrical and mechanical engineer, reported interim pre-tax profits for the half year to end-December of £3.7 million, a *fall of 28 per cent, on sales of* £38 million.

The company, which last November failed in an £18 million takeover bid for Torday & Carlise, has written off the £632,000 cost of the bid as an extraordinary item.

The cost is almost identical to that incurred by Torday in fighting off its unwelcome *suitor. Dowding still has a 9* per cent stake in Torday.

Peter Hollings, chairman, said that trading remained "very difficult and uncertain." But when the upturn came "the company with its strong balance sheet and unique spread of service activities, is well placed to continue its long record of growth."

The interim dividend of 0.92p is a 5 per cent improvement on last time.

Terminator comes to Wembley's aid

BY MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

MICHAEL Jackson's five appearances at Wembley Stadium in August, and the record-breaking sales of the *Terminator 2* video, have helped convince Sir Brian Wolfson that the Wembley leisure group he chairs will make a significant profit recovery this year.

Sir Brian confirmed yesterday that 1991 had returned a loss of £8.37 million, against the £8.5 million forecast that accompanied January's £37 million rights issue, and a 1990 profit of £13.2 million. He identifies strong improvements in the stadium and video businesses as good reasons to expect a substantial upturn in the group's performance this year.

Wembley will stage a record 13 pop concerts this summer, compared with three last year when the war in the Gulf tore up the diary. Earning up to an estimated £400,000 a day, concerts are a key element of the group's venue management division, *whose trading profits dipped* from £16.4 million to £13.7 million last year.

Terminator 2 has set a cracking pace in video sales this year after a particularly disappointing final quarter to 1991, when there was an absence of blockbuster films on *release. Next month* Wembley's Guild video distribution business will add *Basic Instinct*, the American box office hit starring Michael Douglas, to its video catalogue.

The upturn could not come too soon for Wembley, which had to turn to its shareholders for more cash in January, while patching up its balance sheet after gearing had rocketed alarmingly.

Debt is now being brought under control, with gearing down to 65 per cent and Sir Brian is intent on getting it below 55 per cent by the end of the year. The group's interest bill for 1991 was £18.7 million, which completely wiped out the operating profit.

Exceptional provisions of £7.47 million, including the £3.2 million cost of rationalising *the American ticket activities*, and a £3.5 million write-down of its investments, sent the group deep into the red.

As promised the final dividend is 0.9p, lifting the total to 1.8p, against 2.4p.

Wembley's ticket systems operation, the world's biggest, *returned to trading profit*, with its 50 per cent owned ticket sales business making a good start to 1992.

Meanwhile, legislation in both America, where Denver is doubling the number of its live race dates, and the UK, where the betting levy is being reduced, promise an advance in profits.

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Hafnia falls to a bid

BY OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

A DARING attempt by Hafnia, a Danish insurance company, to force its rivals into a pan-Scandinavian insurance grouping backfired yesterday when it succumbed to a full-*blown takeover bid* by Forsakrings AB Skandia, the Swedish insurer.

The launch of the SwKr2.4 *billion (£230 million)* all-share takeover bid for Hafnia, ending month-long speculation about a co-operation deal in the Nordic insurance sector. Hafnia's fortunes have turned for the worse since last November when it stalked Skandia by taking a 14.8 per cent stake. Separately, UNI *Storebrand, the* Norwegian insurer, took a stake of 28 per cent in Skandia.

But Skandia, the largest of the three, rejected an alliance and refused board representation to the new shareholders.

Ironically, it was the dismal performance of Skandia shares which brought Hafnia to the brink. The whole sector has been in difficulties, with Skandia announcing last week a 1991 operating loss of SwKr 580 million.

Hafnia yesterday announced *a net loss of DKr1.31* billion (£120 million), and the resignation of Per Villum Hansen, the chief executive, and Henrik Klaebel, his deputy.

Skandia, whose shares were suspended at SwKr130 yesterday morning, is offering nine shares for every four Hafnia A shares, and nine shares for every five B shares.

The combined premium income of the group will amount to SwKr 40 billion.

Britannia passes dividend

Britannia Group, the property and housebuilding firm, has passed its final dividend for last year after a £775,000 provision for the falling value of land and a £325,000 reorganisation cost pushed it into a £690,000 pre-tax loss. The *company made a pre-tax* profit of £631,000 last time after provisions of £1.2 million and paid a total dividend of 3p. Christopher Powell, chairman, said there would be no final dividend. An interim of 1p has been paid.

Morrell aboard

Lonrho, whose newspaper and magazine interests remain the subject of widespread speculation as it continues to make asset sales to reduce debt, has appointed Nicholas Morrell to its board. Mr Morrell was appointed managing director of *the Observer* in 1988.

Amgold rises

Amgold's net income for the year ended March rose 32 per cent to R235.5 million (£46.9 million). A final dividend of 500 cents, makes 975 cents (775 cents). Anamint is paying a final of 310 cents, making 382 cents (380 cents).

Parambe falls

Parambe's pre-tax profits fell from £112,308 to £65,933 *last year. The final dividend is* cut from 1p to 0.55p, making 1.1p (1.55p).

Brussels creates VAT network

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission will spend more than £6 million setting up a Community-wide VAT computer network in time for the barrier-free market of 1993. With all paperwork at frontiers — between 50 and 60 million documents a year — due to disappear from January 1, *Christiane Scrivener, the tax* commissioner, said cross-border VAT payments would be monitored through a "VAT Information Exchange System", or Vies.

The Commission has signed a contract with SOF-X Marben Group, a Franco-Belgian software company, which will work with NCR and Interpac in setting up the system. From next year, all inter-business cross-border acquisitions will be subject to VAT in the country of purchase, rather than the country of origin. A company

Scrivener: computer plan

selling a product to a business customer in another EC country will tap into Vies, check *the customer is* VAT-registered, and dispatch the goods. The buyer will the have to declare the purchase on his periodical VAT return.

At the moment, all cross-border deliveries are accompanied by a single administration document (Sad), that *has about 50 boxes to be filled* in and checked by customs officers. For the first time, hospitals, schools and local authorities buying items worth more that 10,000 ecus (£7,200) in another country will be required to register for VAT and use Vies.

Individuals, on the other hand, will pay VAT in the country of origin, although there will be exemptions for *cars and mail-order* companies. A Briton could therefore, still buy a car in Belgium, VAT-free, and pay the tax on return.

Vies will be operating by the beginning of November, to give traders time to prepare for the July 1, 1993, deadline for *making their first VAT* declarations. A Commission official said Vies will not make sensitive company information available to suppliers and rivals. "Traders will get a straight 'yes' or 'no' answer from the system, nothing more."

Goldman cleared on Maxwell deals

BY OUR CITY STAFF

GOLDMAN Sachs, the Wall Street investment bank that was criticised for its dealings in Maxwell Communication Corporation shares in 1990 and 1991, has been cleared by a London Stock Exchange *working party*.

Goldman Sachs was accused of effectively operating *a support operation* for MCC shares by buying put options from Robert Maxwell. Maxwell sold Goldman two put options, of 15 million and 30 million MCC shares, between August 1990 and February *1991. Exercise prices were at* a premium to the then market level.

Some market-makers saw this as an inducement for Goldman to buy and hold the shares. However, a Stock Exchange statement yesterday said that "the working party found no evidence to support speculation that there had been a breach of Stock Exchange rules or that there had been some form of illegal *share support operation* by Goldman Sachs".

Under company law, Goldman was exempted from *disclosure requirements* for holding more than 3 per cent of a stock when the shares were held for market-making. There was no evidence to support disciplinary action against Goldman Sachs.

Lloyd's wins pollution case

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

THE Lloyd's insurance market has won a "very significant" court case in America over the $100 million cost of cleaning up a chemical manufacturing site in New Jersey. *The site was contaminated* with dioxin, used under the name Agent Orange as a defoliant in the Vietnam war.

The judgment, delivered after three years of legal wrangling, is seen at Lloyd's as an important victory and a possible turning-point. For years, the market has picked up the bills for polluters in America. Leonard Sheft, the lawyer who acted for Lloyd's, *said the judgment was particularly* welcome because it involved Diamond Shamrock, a high-profile company, and because New Jersey courts had a reputation for finding against insurers.

As well as clean-up costs, Diamond Shamrock claimed for compensation payments it had made to Vietnam veterans suffering disability through exposure to Agent *Orange during combat.*

In the original court case in 1989, a New Jersey judge found that the insurers were not responsible for clean-up costs but were liable for the Agent Orange claims. The New Jersey appeal court has confirmed the clean-up costs *judgment and overturned the* decision on the Agent Orange claims. Diamond Shamrock is considering an appeal to the Supreme Court. Lloyd's would have had substantial exposure to the clean-up costs as it was the major reinsurer of Diamond Shamrock's direct insurers. The lead underwriter was Richard Youell, of Janson Green.

The judgment is seen as one of the most important involving American pollution claims since the case of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Colorado. Shell is appealing against the initial decision in that case, which was in favour of the insurers and placed the *cost of cleaning up the former* dump site on the polluter. However, most such cases have gone against insurers.

Earlier this week, David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's, spoke of "the apparent determination of the courts in some countries to bend over backwards, sometimes interpreting insurance wordings in bizarre ways, to *reach the perceived deep* pockets of insurers."

The total cost of cleaning up pollution in America is *estimated at hundreds of* billions of dollars.

Property slump forces Amec into the red

BY MARTIN WALLER

Tough time: Alan Cockshaw sees no upturn

THE need to provide for falling land and commercial property values has meant losses for 1991 at Amec, the engineering and construction group.

The group produced a £9.9 million deficit before tax (£63.4 million profit), but a maintained final dividend of 6.25p means a total of 10.250p (10.125p). The loss comes after a £60 million exceptional item to cover write-offs on housebuilding and property.

Alan Cockshaw, the chairman, said: "Our view is it won't improve in the short term. We think it's going to be very *rough indeed and* not just in the UK. We don't see any recovery in the US until the last quarter at *least.*"

Amec had at least the advantage of cash in the bank, after a £110 million rights issue a year ago, said Mr Cockshaw, and cash balances were £76 million at the year end. The main drain on the group in 1991 was housing and property, where a £700,000 loss in 1990 became an £11.3 million deficit last year. Amec sold 1,300 units at an average of £90,000 and expects this to fall to £85,000 this year. A £40 million write-off has been required for housing land.

Amec has been shifting emphasis towards the less badly hit northern housing *market but still has a 30 to* 40 per cent exposure to the South East. Mr Cockshaw said Amec did see an excellent performance from the process and energy sector and the heavy mechanical, electrical and civil engineering companies. Despite this the building and civil engineering side saw profits slip to £24.2 million (£30.3 million), while mechanical and electrical engineering fell £5 million to £33.6 million.

"Although we are clearly disappointed by the decline in overall profitability, this *is a good performance in the* face of the worst recession our industry has experienced for 50 years," he said.

***Amec will be little affected* by the coming to power of either a Labour or a Conservative government. "As far as our businesses are concerned, the effects historically have been broadly neutral."**

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Threat of stoppage at Brooks Brothers

HOURLY-paid sales workers in New York's Brooks Brothers store chain, which is owned by Marks and Spencer, are threatening to strike next week. They claim they have been asked to take a 25 per cent pay cut (Philip Robinson writes).

Sales at Brooks Brothers, which has clothed presidents, the Astors, the Rockefellers and the Vanderbilts, are not disclosed, but analysts believe the stores have not escaped the sharp fall in American consumer spending.

Members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers union say Brooks wants to give them a flat 9 per cent commission on sales, which would effectively mean 25 per cent salary cuts.

A three-year union contract ran out on March 31, but the union agreed a ten-day extension. That expires at midnight. The contract covers four stores and, according to Brooks figures, fewer than 200 people.

A Brooks spokesman said: "We are continuing to negotiate." A letter on Brooks Brothers' headed notepaper, sent to credit card customers last week, said: "We are going to be fleeced by the golden fleece." The union said it must have been the work of renegade members.

Sindall slips into the red

WILLIAM Sindall, a builder and civil engineer, has been forced to make a £5.02 million exceptional provision in its 1991 results, pushing the company into a £4.19 million pre-tax loss. Profit last time was £1.69 million.

There is no final dividend, though Sindall made a 1.5p half-time payment; in 1990, 4.5p was paid.

The provision includes redundancy and closure costs of £517,000 and a £4.67 million write-down in the carrying value of housing and developments.

A court case against Cambridgeshire County Council over a land deal, due to be heard in July, could materially affect the group's affairs.

STOCK MARKET: THURSDAY'S OFFICIAL TRADING

Election day gives shares biggest rise of this year

LONDON equities rebounded sharply, enjoying their biggest rise of the year, with widespread gains for top shares after a futures-led advance was aided by an absence of sellers after the latest polls showed swings towards the Conservatives.

The futures market pulled the cash market higher as the bears moved to cover their short positions. Traders responded to the latest opinion polls that showed a modest swing towards the Tories and putting them neck-and-neck with Labour. This was enough for some to have a punt, with leading privatisation shares in particular demand.

The advance in London was achieved despite further overnight weakness in both New York and Tokyo, with the Nikkei index having dived 557 points to close below 17,000 for the first time since 1986.

A positive start in New York, with the Dow Jones up 32 points, provided a further boost to sentiment in London. At the normal 4.30pm close, the FT-SE 100 index was fractionally off its best levels, closing up 43.2 points at 2,436.4. The FT index of 30 shares gained 31 points to 1,885.7. Volume reached a relatively healthy 506.2 million shares.

Government securities added about £⅝ as the pound held firm and the threat of an imminent rise in interest rates receded.

A busy London trading session is in prospect today, with the Stock Exchange due to open 30 minutes early, while the latest inflation figures are also due. City hopes that the Tories could clinch victory prompted rises in the utilities as some decided to have a punt. Both electricity and water shares sported healthy gains, although they ended off their best levels.

Among the electricity companies, **East Midlands** added 15p to 237p, **London** 11p to 253p, **Manweb** 7p to 289p, **Midlands** 11p to 246p, **Northern** 18p to 258p, **Norweb** 12p to 257p, **Southern** 12p to 222p and **South West** 14p to 252p. The package rose £97 to £2,453. The generators also brightened, with **National Power** up 4p to 203p and **PowerGen** 7p to 213p, while **Scottish Hydro** firmed 6p to 85p and **Scottish Power** 7p to 83p. Among the water stocks, **Anglian** gained 14p to 331p, **Severn Trent** 13p to 315p, **Southern** 8p to 314p, **South West** 19p to 338p, **Thames** 15p to 344p, **Welsh** 16p to 356p and **Wessex** 8p to 382p.

Other privatisation shares achieving gains included **BT**, up 7p to 314p, while the BT partly-paid added 6¾p to 100½p. **British Gas** firmed 3p to 250p. Stores did well after County NatWest and Morgan Stanley made positive statements about the sector. County says in its latest review that there will be buying opportunities for quality stocks, suggesting that a minority Labour government will not be all bad in the medium term because lower income earners will have more spending power.

Among those favoured, **Argos** added 14p to 247p, **Boots** 12p to 419p, **Dixons**, which County thinks may present one of the better buying opportunities, was 12p higher at 210p. **Marks and Spencer** was 10p up at 301p and **WH Smith** A 22p higher at 415p. Also included is **Kingfisher**, up 15p to 487p.

Against the general trend, **Euro Disney** initially fell 40p, but recovered to close 22p lower at £14.43 as some analysts became cautious. Among them, Nomura put out a sell recommendation after a visit on Tuesday. The Japanese securities house is cautious despite its own forecast of a bumper start for Euro Disney.

Nomura predicts 12.5 million visitors in the first year, although the initial interest is expected to ease off in the following two or three years. Lindsay Russell, at Nomura, said: "We've done our calculations and we've dropped our expectations. We are more cautious about the winter."

Grand Metropolitan, where shareholders vote today on the company's proposed share split which should improve marketability, rose 13p to 887p.

Vickers continued to respond to hopes that Rolls-Royce Motors will be sold outright and the shares firmed 3p to 147p.

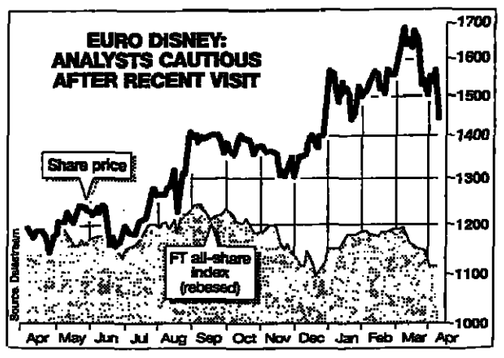
Mounting Middle East tension triggered-off fresh strength in crude prices, boosting **BP** and **Shell** 2½p and 7p to 248p and 461p respectively.

On the company news front, the payment of a dividend outweighed losses at **Amec**, the construction group, with the shares up 11p to 149p.

Meanwhile, **Harland Simon** rebounded 15p to 94p after the group said it has decided to dispose of non-core activities.

Prudential, up 11p to 219p, benefited from the apparent shift in the possible outcome of the election. Elsewhere in the sector, **Legal & General** firmed 10p to 335p, aided by a recent buy recommendation from Credit Lyonnais Laing.

PHILIP PANGALOS



ICI, which has been seen as a good election hedge, was further buoyed by talk that its fibres side is up for sale. The talk was that Du Pont is set to pay about £350 million, although ICI would not comment. ICI rose 14p to £12.73. Wellcome, also seen as an election hedge, added 24p to £10.86.

RECENT ISSUES

Amicable Smaller Units (500)	454	...
Avonside Group (106)	99	...
Bodycote Intl (RFD)	377	...
Brent Walker Wts	3	...
British Data Mngmnt (125)	119	...
CRP Leisure	25	...
CU Environmental	95	...
CU Environmental Wrnts	21	...
Capital Industries 1p	56	...
Fleming Inc & Cap Tst Inc (70)	64½	...
-do- Units (100)	97	+ ½
-do- Zero Div Pf (30)	31½	+ ½
Forth Ports (110)	124	...
Latin Amer Inc & Ap (£10¾)	£11⅛	– ⅛
M & G Recovery Inc	35	...
M & G Recovery Inv Cap	14	+1
M & G Recovery Inv Gtd Uts	47½	+ ½
M & G Recovery Pdcg Uts	97	...
Multitrust Warrants	11	...
Plastiquinn A	4	...
River & Merc Tst Inc 12½p	103	...
-do- Stppd Prf 12½p	123	...
Rosebys (115)	128	+1
Templeton Emg Mkts C (100)	90	...
Usher-Walker (RFD 1/1/92)	149	...
Welpac (RFD)	22¾	+ ½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Addison Consultancy N/P (12)	½	...
Bowater N/P (605)	101+16	
Courtney, Pope N/P (85)	1¾	...
PFG Hodgson N/P (40)	1	– ¼

Dow rises 33 points in early trading

New York — Blue chips enjoyed a technical recovery during quiet trading in the late morning as investors took a breather after two days of heavy selling. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 33.54 points to 3,214.89 in early afternnon trading. Broad-based and secondary shares edged up on selective bargain-hunting. Analysts attributed the advance to technical factors after share losses that had been overdone.

The producer prices for March were as forecast, but worries still persist about an American economic recovery. Joseph Barthel, the director of investment strategy at Fahnestock & Co. said: "This is an extremely oversold market."

☐ **Hong Kong** — Shares fell sharply in the afternoon as Tokyo renewed its decline. The blue-chip Hang Seng index dived 98.19 points, or 2.03 per cent, to 4,729.39 after a tumble of 2.01 per cent on Wednesday.

Turnover grew to HK$2.49 billion (£184 million) from Wednesday's HK$2.13 billion. Brokers said that losses were across the board and that further declines can be expected as Tokyo still seems to be searching for a bottom. The broader all-ordinaries index slid 50.6 points to 2,563.64.

☐ **Sydney** — The market plunged to a seven-month low in late trading. The all-ordinaries index shadowed the Nikkei index in Tokyo all day, finally falling below the support level of 1,550 to close 9 points down at 1,545.3.

☐ **Frankfurt** — Prices resisted the downward pull of heavy overnight losses in Tokyo and New York and recovered from an early drop to close unchanged. The Dax index ended 0.24 points higher at 1,720.25.

☐ **Singapore** — Shares closed broadly lower after brief gains as nervous investors sold shares following Tokyo's continued plunge. The Straits Times industrial index fell 11.54 points to 1,352.83. *(Reuter)*

WALL STREET

	Apr 9 midday	Apr 8 close
AMP Inc	58⅞	57¼
AMR Corp	70⅞	68½
Abbott Labs	64	62⅞
Aetna Life	41⅛	41⅛
Allegheny (HF)	16	15⅝
Air Prod & Chem	40⅞	40⅞
Albertson's	42⅛	41⅞
Alcan Aluminum	19	18⅞
Allied Signal	36⅛	36⅛
Alum Co of Am	52½	50⅞
Amax	68	66⅞
Amerada Hess	17⅛	16⅞
Amer Brands	40½	40⅝
Amer Cyanamid	44⅞	44⅞
Amer El Power	60⅞	60½
Amer Express	30⅞	30½
Amer Gen Corp	22⅞	22⅞
Amer Home Pr	41⅛	41⅛
Amer Intl	75⅞	74½
Amer Stores	85½	84⅛
Amer T & T	33⅛	32
Ameritech	41⅛	40⅞
Amoco	58⅞	57⅞
Anheuser-Busch	43⅞	43½
Apple Computer	55⅛	54½
Archer Daniels	56⅛	55⅞
Arkla	24⅞	24⅞
Armco	8	8
Armstrong Wrld	5⅛	5⅛
Asarco	30⅛	30⅞
Ashland Oil	24⅞	25⅛
Atl Richfield	31⅞	32⅛
Auto Data Pro	104⅛	104⅛
Avery Dennison	43⅞	43⅛
Avon Products	26⅛	26⅛
Baker Hughes	46⅞	46⅞
Baldrin Gas & El	17⅞	17⅞
Bancone	30⅞	30⅞
BankAmerica	45⅞	44⅞
Bank of NY	40⅞	38⅞
Bankers Tr NY	39⅞	37⅞
Barnett Bks Fl	52⅞	51⅞
Bausch & Lomb	32⅞	31⅞
Baxter Intl	47⅞	47⅞
Bectn Dickinson	35⅛	35⅛
Bell Atlantic	69⅞	67½
BellSouth	40⅞	40⅞
Black & Decker	44⅛	43½
Block (H&R)	22⅞	22⅞
Boeing	32⅞	30⅞
Boise Cascade	43⅞	43⅞
Borden Inc	21⅞	21⅛
Bristol Myers Sq	32½	32⅞
Browning Ferris	75⅞	75⅞
Burlington Nthn	20⅞	20⅞
CBS	30⅞	30⅞
CNA Financial	170⅞	169½
CPC Intl	87⅞	80½
CSX	84⅞	84⅞
Campbell Soup	57⅞	56⅛
Can Pacific	34⅞	33⅞
Cpl Cities ABC	13⅞	13⅞
Cpl Holdings	427½	415
Carolina Pwr	55⅞	54
Caterpillar	51⅞	51½
Central & SW	48	48
Champion Intl	25⅛	25
Chase Manhat	26⅛	25⅞
Chemical Bk	22	21½
Chevron Corp	30⅞	30⅞
Chrysler	64½	64½
Chubb Corp	17	16⅞
Citicorp	64⅞	63⅛
Clorox	47⅞	47½
Coca Cola	15⅞	15⅛
Colgate Palm	45⅞	45⅛
Columbia Gas	47⅞	46½
Commnwlth Ed	16	15⅞
Comptg Comp	32⅞	32⅞
Comp Ass Int	25⅞	25⅞
Conagra	13⅞	13⅞
Cons Edison	26⅛	26⅛
Cons Nat Gas	26⅛	26⅛
Cons Rail	36⅛	35⅞
Cooper Inds	81½	79⅞
Corning Inc	54⅞	54
Crown Cork	34⅛	33½
Dana Corp	92½	91⅛
Dayton Hudson	37⅞	37½
Deere	61⅛	60
Delta Air Lines	49	47⅞
Deluxe Corp	60⅞	59
Detroit Edison	40⅞	39⅞
Digital Equip	31⅛	30⅛
Dillard Dept St	54⅞	53½
Disney (Wlt)	121⅞	121⅞
Dominion Res	150⅞	149⅞
Donelley (RR)	34⅞	34⅞
Dover Corp	48⅞	47⅞
Dow Chemicals	39⅞	38⅞
Dow Jones	58⅞	58⅞
Dresser	29⅞	28
Duke Power	19⅞	19
Dun & Bradstreet	32⅞	32⅞
Du Pont	53⅞	51⅞
Eastman Kodak	47⅞	47
Eaton Corp	38⅞	38⅞
	74⅛	73⅞

	Apr 9 midday	Apr 8 close
Emerson Elec	50⅞	49⅞
Engelhard Corp	35⅞	35
Enron Corp	34⅞	33⅞
Entergy Corp	26⅞	26½
Ethyl Corp	26⅞	25⅞
Exxon	57⅞	57⅞
FMC Corp	45⅞	45½
FPL Group	33⅞	32⅞
Federal Express	43½	42⅛
Fed Nat Mtge	65	63
First Chicago	27⅞	27⅛
First Interstate	35⅞	34⅞
First Union Rlty	8⅞	8⅛
FlemNorstar	27⅞	27⅛
Fluor Corp	39⅞	37⅞
Ford Motor	38⅞	38⅞
GTE Corp	28⅞	28⅞
Gannett	42⅞	42⅞
Gap Inc Del	39⅞	40⅞
Gen Cinema	20⅞	20⅞
Gen Dynamics	63⅞	63⅛
Gen Electric	74	72⅞
Gen Mills	64⅛	64⅞
Gen Motors	39⅞	37⅞
Gen Reinsurance	88⅞	89⅞
Gen Signal	50⅞	58⅞
Genuine Parts	46	45⅞
Georgia Pac	63⅞	60⅞
Gillette	48⅞	47⅞
Goodrich (BF)	48⅞	48⅛
Goodyear Tire	67	66⅞
Grace (W&R)	35⅞	35⅛
Grt Atl Pac Tea	32⅞	32⅞
Great Wstn Fin	17⅞	17
Halliburton	22⅞	22⅛
Heinz (HJ)	38	37⅞
Hercules	51⅞	50⅞
Hershey Foods	38⅞	38⅛
Hewlett Packard	78⅛	77⅛
Hilton Hotels	46⅞	44⅞
Home Depot	64⅛	62⅞
Homestake	12⅞	11⅞
Honeywell	71⅛	70½
Household Intl	46⅞	45⅞
Houston Inds	42⅞	42⅞
Humana	24⅞	24
ITT Corp	63⅞	62⅞
Illinois Tool	58⅛	58
INCO	27⅞	27½
Ingersoll Rand	50	50⅛
Inland Steel	21⅛	21½
Intel Corp	58½	57½
IBM	85⅞	84⅞
Int Flav & Fr	103	101½
Int Paper	70⅛	69
James River Va	21	21
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	98⅞	96⅞
K Mart	50⅞	49⅞
Kellogg	57⅞	56⅞
Kerr-McGee	38⅞	38⅛
Kimberly-Clark	50	49⅞
Knight-Ridder	58⅞	58⅞
Lilly (Eli)	71⅛	70⅞
Limited Inc	24⅞	24⅞
LIN Broadcstg	75⅞	74
Lincoln Nat	53½	53⅛
Litton	92⅞	91⅛
Lg Gladstone	34⅞	34⅛
Lockheed Corp	44½	44⅛
Louisiana Pac	59⅞	57⅞
MCI Common	31½	30⅞
Marriott	14⅛	13⅞
Mash & McLnn	71⅞	71⅞
Martin Marietta	53⅛	52⅞
Masco Corp	26	25⅞
May Dept St	55½	54⅞
Mayag Corp	17	16⅞
McCaw Cellular	27⅞	27⅞
McDonalds	41⅞	41⅞
McDonnell D	58⅞	57⅛
McGraw Hill	60⅞	60
Mead Corp	35⅞	34⅞
Medtronic	70⅞	69⅞
Mellon Bk	36⅞	36
Melville Corp	47	46⅞
Merck Inc	149⅞	146½
Merrill Lynch	49⅞	49⅛
Minnesota Mnng	87⅞	86⅞
Mobil Corp	61⅞	62⅛
Monsanto	63⅞	62⅞
Morgan (JP)	55	52⅞
Motorola Inc	75⅛	75
Nat Medical	13⅛	12⅞
Nat Semi	9⅛	9⅛
Natl Service Ind	25⅛	24⅞
Navistar Int	3⅛	3⅛
NBD Bancorp	27⅞	27⅛
NY Times A	27⅞	26⅞
Newmont Mng	38½	37
Nlng Mohawk	17⅞	17½
Nike B	64⅛	64⅞
NL Industries	8⅞	8⅛
Nordstrom	35	34⅛
Norfolk Sthrn	59	57½
Nthn State Pwr	39⅞	38⅞
Norwest Corp	35⅛	35
Nynex Corp	69⅞	69⅞
Occidental Pet	18⅞	18⅞
Ohio Edison	19⅞	19⅞
Oracle Systems	13⅞	12½

	Apr 9 midday	Apr 8 close
Onyx Energy Co	20⅞	19⅞
PNC Financial	47⅞	47½
PPG Industries	55⅞	55½
Pacific Inc	53½	51⅞
PacifiCorp	21⅞	21⅞
Pac Enterprises	19⅞	18⅞
Pac Gas & Elect	29⅞	29⅞
Pac Telesis	32½	32
Pall Corp	24⅞	24⅞
Panhandle East	13⅞	13⅞
Paramnt Comm	45	44⅞
Parker Hannifin	32⅞	32
Penney (JC)	64½	62⅞
Pennzoil	44⅞	45⅞
Pepsico	34⅞	34⅞
Pfizer	70⅞	69⅞
Phelps Dodge	80	80⅞
Philadel Elec	25⅞	25
Philip Morris	75⅞	75⅞
Phillips Pet	23⅞	23⅞
Pitney Bowes	63	62⅞
Polaroid	25⅞	25½
Prctr Gr	35	34½
Primerica	38⅞	37
Procter & Gmbl	98⅞	96½
Pub Serv E & G	26⅞	26⅞
Quaker Oats	31⅞	32½
Ralston Purina	48⅞	47⅞
Raychem Corp	32⅞	31⅞
Raytheon	43½	43
Reebok Intl	29	28⅞
Reynolds Metals	54½	54½
Roadway Svcs	69	67⅞
Rockwell Intl	24⅞	24⅞
Rohm & Haas	47⅞	46⅞
Royal Dutch	79⅞	79⅞
Rubbermaid	32½	31⅞
Safeco Corp	43⅞	42⅞
St Paul's Cos	68⅞	68⅞
Salomon Inc	27⅞	27
Santa Fe S Pac	11½	11⅞
Sara Lee Corp	49⅞	49
Scecorp	41	40⅞
Schering Plough	55⅞	54½
Schlumberger	57⅞	56½
Scott Paper	40	38½
Seagram	115½	113⅞
Sears Roebuck	45⅞	44⅞
Sec Pacific	35½	33⅞
Shell Trans	48⅞	48⅞
Sherwin Wllms	29⅞	27⅞
Skyline Corp	17⅞	17⅞
Snap-On-Tools	36⅞	36½
Southern Co	31⅞	31⅞
Sthwestern Bell	57⅞	56⅞
Sprint Corp	21	21
Stanley Works	40	39⅞
Sun Company	26⅞	26⅞
Sunstrand	35⅞	34
Super Valu	25⅞	25½
Synnx Corp	46⅞	45⅞
Sysco Corp	45⅞	45⅞
TRW Inc	46½	45⅞
Tandem Comp	12⅞	12½
Tandy Corp	27	26½
Telecom Corp	1⅞	1½
Teledyne	23⅞	23⅞
Temple Inland	52⅞	51⅞
Tenneco	36⅞	36⅞
Texaco	58⅞	59
Texas Inst	32⅞	31⅞
Texas Utilities	37⅞	37⅞
Textron	34	34
Time Warner	95⅞	96⅞
Times-Mirror	34⅞	33⅞
Timken	26	26⅞
Torchmark	58⅞	57⅞
Toys R Us	31⅞	31⅞
Transamerica	41⅞	40⅞
Travelers Corp	19⅞	19⅞
Tribune	42½	41⅞
Tyco Labs	34⅞	33⅞
UAL Corp	133½	130⅞
UST Inc	28	28⅞
USX Marathon	21⅞	20⅞
Unilever NV	98⅞	98⅞
Union Camp	51⅞	49⅞
Union Carbide	23⅞	23⅞
Union Pacific	46⅞	46½
Unisys Corp	9⅞	9⅞
USAIR Group	16	15⅞
USF&G Corp	9⅞	9⅞
US Life	45⅞	45⅞
US West	33⅞	33
United Tech	52⅞	52½
Unocal Corp	21⅞	21⅞
Upjohn	38⅞	38
UST Corp	44	43⅞
Wal-Mart Stores	51⅞	51⅞
Warner-Lambert	62⅞	61⅞
Waste Mgmnt Inc	37	37⅞
Wells Fargo	66	64⅞
Westinghouse El	17⅞	17⅞
Weyerhaeuser	34	33½
Whirlpool	43⅞	42
Whittaker	14⅞	14⅞
Wisn Dixie	41⅞	40⅞
Woolworth	29⅞	29
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	67⅞	66½
Xerox	73½	71⅞

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Boots	419p (+12p)
Standard Chartered	438p (+12p)
SG Warburg	474p (+19p)
Nat West	284p (+14p)
Bass	531½p (+21½p)
Grand Met	887p (+13p)
Whitbread 'A'	387p (+18p)
Amec	149p (+11p)
Berkeley Group	220p (+10p)
RMC Group	554p (+14p)
Steetley	448p (+15p)
Rugby Group	181p (+11p)
Rentokil	356p (+14p)
Betterware	258p (+13n)
Kingfisher	487p (+15p)
Cable Wireless	538p (+10p)
Rank Org	688p (+19p)
VSEL	330p (+12p)

FALLS:

Jardine Strat	141p (-12p)
BM Group	294p (-12p)

Closing Prices..Page 29

COMMENT

Brooding at the Bundesbank

Germany's unification costs seem destined to last much longer than originally envisaged. Countries in the ERM that are being held back by having to share that burden through high interest rates can therefore expect little early relief. The Bundesbank's annual report is full of fastidious tut-tutting about wages, public spending and budgetary deficits, all of which are beyond the purview of the monetary burghers of Frankfurt. Western Germans should make sacrifices because the east will need more public and private transfers over a longer period than expected. The only thing saving the mark, the Bundesbank implied, was its own tough stance on interest rates and inflation.

Some ears seem to have been closed even before the Bundesbank spoke. Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister, has responded to the government's poor showing in regional elections by insisting that no tax increases are required. The largest public sector union is already winding itself up for a strike after employers rejected the judgment of arbiters. They suggested 5.4 per cent, plus the sort of extras familiar from Britain's Seventies social compact, which is in line with other recent settlements but outside the Bundesbank guideline of keeping within inflation. Germany is an embarrassment to the Bundesbank. Helmut Schlesinger, its president, seems miffed at not being in a position to lecture the rest of Europe about its need to take action to meet the Maastricht convergence tests for economic and monetary union, which Germany insisted on putting into the treaty. Germany itself is clearly not meeting them.

Thus far, the Bundesbank seems confident that inflation, which has reached 4.7 per cent, will come back below 4 per cent by the end of the year. This seems to depend, however, on keeping the Lombard rate at 9.75 per cent. Wage and borrowing pressures argue against any short-term cuts if inflation is to subside. The economy shrank sufficiently in the second half of last year to make further substantive rate rises dangerous, prolonging the agony in the east. How far that agony is due to the ill-judged rush to privatisation and incompetent handling of many routine sales can only be guessed. The rest of Europe may, however, be paying a high price for the Treuhand experiment.

Springtime at BAe

Yesterday's acquisition from Astra Holdings' receiver, which builds on existing business with Oerlikon of Switzerland, is a minor matter for British Aerospace, but another signal that the group is regaining its confidence. Over the past two months, the group has won a series of Ministry of Defence orders for missiles and aircraft that indicate it will not immediately have to pay the nation's peace dividend. John Major's weekend announcement that Saudi Arabia had decided to go ahead with a further £1.5 billion tranche of the Al Yamamah programme, though premature in terms of orders, should resolve another medium-term anxiety.

British Aerospace shares, a strong feature of daytime trading yesterday, still stand at less than half their market value a year ago but have climbed a fifth from their February low point. The pace of reassessement could well accelerate. At the end of the month, BAe holds its annual meeting and Sir Graham Day, its vigorous if temporary chairman, is likely to choose that occasion to announce his own successor as well as a replacement for Dudley Eustace as finance director. The future is becoming clearer. Since BAe shares yield a 10.4 per cent dividend, there is clearly still plenty of scope for investors' confidence to recover too.

EUROPEAN VIEW

Western tactics risk strangling eastern democracies at birth

Jacques Attali tells Wolfgang Münchau that mechanisms such as the CAP must be reformed if the new free markets of the east are to survive

Helping hand: Jacques Attali says the west must open up to eastern Europe's exports

East Europeans must be wondering whether the invisible hand of the free market is about to turn into an iron fist, according to a survey published this week by the Commission for Europe.

An affiliate of the United Nations and one of the most respected institutions in its field, the commission's report gives one of the most damning verdicts on eastern Europe's economic reform so far. It leaves no doubt that eastern Europe's first experience of democracy has included a depression on the scale of the Thirties with all the political ramifications. "Once filled with hope," the authors suggest, "the countries in transition have increasingly become an area of disillusion, anxiety and social-political tensions."

Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, used to warn against treating the subject of eastern Europe with too much doom and gloom. But the commission's assertion that the economic and political situation in eastern Europe is fraught with acute dangers, for the east and the west, is one that M Attali endorses without hesitation.

In an interview with *The Times*, ahead of the European Bank's first annual meeting of governors in Budapest next week, M Attali argued that the west must no longer duck the central issues, or it will risk a derailing of the reform process. These central issues are similar in many ways to those under discussion at the deadlocked Gatt trade negotiations in Geneva: western European protectionism and the economic hazards resulting from the common agricultural policy. If west Europe does not open up, he said, east Europe will not have a market worth exporting to, and we will be throwing bad money after good.

"That is why the G7 summit in Munich is so absolutely vital because it is the last window of opportunity to make decisions on trade, on soft loans, on new money to finance restructuring and on Gatt. The tragedy is that governments in Europe and the US are in an election year," he said.

M Attali wants a multilateral trade pact, one which extends far beyond the type of loose association agreements which have already been negotiated with some countries. Such a pact should be created with a free and a common market in mind, to cover the whole of Europe, including Russia and the rest of the newly formed Commonwealth of Independent States. Europe's common agricultural policy and its controversial export subsidies must not continue in the present form, he said — a significant assertion if one considers that M Attali used to be the special adviser to the president of France, a country that strongly supports the CAP. But he went even further: "To achieve this, the European Community has to change its policy towards steel, textiles and agriculture. And we have to be bold enough to do it. If we don't do it, eastern Europe will not be able to sell us their agricultural and other products." He pointed out that Russia could achieve immediate savings of $10 billion if it stopped importing grain. Those savings could be used to buy necessary equipment and machine tools.

A refusal by western Europe to open up would be the ultimate hypocracy. M Atali added: "There are some people who actually prefer eastern Europe to suffer from balance of payments deficits, since this is only the result of our dumping of agricultural surpluses. Instead, we must open our markets. Do we really want to regard eastern Europe as a means of financing our own trade surpluses? Or, rather, do we consider that we have a role to play in its development? If the EC regards its CAP, steel and textiles regimes as inflexible and unchangeable then the result might be frustration and war in eastern Europe, and we must not forget that eastern Europe was twice the origin of a world war."

The two best forms of assistance we can give to the east are free trade and direct help with the reconstruction of industries with the greatest export potential, such as oil and agriculture. M Attali accepts that balance of trade finance is important, but the essential task is to create a situation in which such finance is no longer needed.

Last week's much-hyped G7 accord on a $24 billion assistance package — $6 billion for a stabilisation fund and the remainder in trade credits — is a case in point. M Attali declared himself "sceptical" about the impact of this package not because the assistance is not needed but because it might lead to false expectations in the east, and a false sense of security in the west. "A lot of people in Moscow believe that it is a check of $24 billion, which is going to be deposited next week. This is not true." He added that much of this money is not essentially new money. There are also uncertainties whether the package would benefit only Russia, or all of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The increasing scepticism, desperation even, expressed by those dealing with reform in eastern Europe, raises the inevitable question: What has gone wrong in eastern Europe since 1990?

The Commission for Europe points out quite astutely that western "experts" were not only incompetent in forecasting the collapse of communism, but that subsequently many of those experts have underestimated the task ahead. The commission lays much of the blame on the dogma of shock-therapy economics, as advocated by some prominent western advisers, such as immediate price liberalisation coupled with a squeeze on the money supply. Voodoo economics may have been discredited in the west during the last decade, but its advocates found a willing outlet in eastern Europe, where politicians were sometimes too desperate (and too naïve) to object to economic experiments of the kind that would never have been acceptable in the west. The result was that eastern Europe entered the reform process with unrealistic expectations, which were bound to be disappointed.

The flaws of shock-therapy economics is one of M Attali's pet subjects. A free market economy is not a free-floating anarchic system, but one that relies on a functioning infrastucture such as legal institutions, effective tax collection mechanisms, financial institutions, central banks, anti-trust authorities and law-and-order enforcement among many. The establishment of such institutions represents the first task in the restrucuturing process.

He conceded that there is one aspect where there is no alternative to the so-called shock therapy — the creation of those free-market institutions themselves. Building on this, the remainder should be a gradual process. "Trying to implement measures of price liberalisation can be very dangerous in terms of economic growth," he said. "You create inflation and black markets. You end up with no real internal supply, and you have to import, and then there will be trade deficits." No tax system, however fair and astute, could work without an effective tax collection mechanism. The result would be soaring budget deficits.

A similar logic applies to the speed of privatisation, the main subject of debate at next week's governors' meeting. He argued: "It would be a disaster if speed was the priorty against the other demands of ethics, transparency, fairness and restructuring. If we have a choice between speed and transparency, I choose transparency. If we have a choice between privatisation and restructuring, I choose restructuring. But in some cases privatisation is a technique to achieve restructuring." The precise choice would depend on the industry. The conversion of a military industry into a civil one would be a strong candidate for a restructuring-first approach. So is Russia's morose banking system.

Given the economic difficulties faced by western European countries, the response cannot be to throw money at Russia's problem. M Attali would never deny that the amount of financial assistance is important, but he believes it is vital that we chose the right sort of money. Later this year, he will press for extentions of the European Bank's remit to allow it to pursue much greater technical assistance than is possible at the moment. He also wants the European Bank to be able to grant soft loans and build up a venture capital business.

But the essential tasks of trade liberalisation and finding enough western support for the restructuring of export-oriented industries will not be easy. "The Marshall plan came at a time of world growth," he said, "but now we have a more difficult economic situation. That is why we need a long-term approach. I feel it is my duty to say it as I am one of the few not to face an election."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

National recovery

AFTER many years of luckless betting on the Grand National, NatWest gilts dealer Michael Ferguson Davie — or "Goose" as he is known to friends — finally drew a hit with Romany King, second in Saturday's race. Ferguson Davie, aged 48, won £10,020 in the Stock Exchange sweepstake but says he has no special plans for the money. "I've been spending it for the last 30 years," he quips. Yesterday, though, it was champagne all round as he shared the celebration with colleagues, pausing only to reflect that while the prize was a "jolly good sum," in the old days the winnings somehow seemed so much more — a case, perhaps, of looking a gift-horse in the mouth. One person who will not be making any such complaint, however, is Sarah Maynard, aged 22, of the SE Regulatory News Service, who won the first prize of £20,040, with the winner, Party Politics. Maynard, who recently got married to a young man called Martin, will use the money to help buy their first home.

Switching drinks

HOARE Govett has made its first big hiring since its link with ABN Amro of The Netherlands earlier this year, recruiting one of the City's top drinks analysts, Eric Frankis, from UBS-Phillips & Drew. Frankis, who had been with Phillips & Drew for 17 years, will begin work at Hoare at the start of next month. "It's their loss and our gain," says David Baggs, Hoare's specialist salesman in the breweries sector and a former Messel man who has been filling in on the analysis side since Andrew Buchanan left in January.

Competitive edge

SHEARSON Lehman is offering clients the chance to win two business class return tickets to exotic locations including Jamaica and Indonesia. All entrants have to do is spot which emerging stockmarkets worldwide will perform best in 1992. There is just one catch — the winner has no say in the choice of the prize destination but must fly to whichever country has the stockmarket which comes out top. "It could be anywhere from Bermuda to Bangladesh," agrees Miles Morland, Lehman's emerging markets guru who dreamed up the competiton. If the winner is less than happy with the result, he or she could do worse than use the enforced vacation to copy Morland's example and write a book. Morland penned *The Man Who Broke Out of the Bank*, currently number ten on the best-seller list, about his own travels in France.

Its own reward

DESPITE its dire financial situation — it is expected to announce a deficit of £400,000 for 1991 — St Paul's Cathedral has received more than 250 applications for the post of accountant. The recent advertisement specified applicants must be aged over 30, "used to working under intense pressure", and saintly with it, given the salary of £22,000. Ken Stones, who joined the staff of St Paul's last October, in the new post of financial controller, after recommendations by Coopers Deloitte, admits that the job is not suitable for someone motivated by money alone. Stones, a committed Christian, reveals that he took a pay cut from his previous job in industry. He has not had a weekend off since he started and often works 13 hour days. "My own feeling of satisfaction comes from knowing that I am working for St Paul's and that maybe one day people will thank me for helping to save this great building." Perhaps the incentive package for the job could be improved by the offer of a commemorative plaque in the churchyard.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

IoD already offers a code of practice on chairmen's pay

From the Director of Corporate Affairs, Institute of Directors

Sir, We totally agree with the view of Mr T.M. Baring (April 7) that there should be a link between a company's profitability and increases in its chairman's salary. The code of practice which he seeks is already in being and is contained in our Guidelines for Directors.

Salaries should initially be set on the basis of the size of the company, the complexity of the task and, where applicable, and only where applicable, the need to compete internationally. Thereafter, the basis of any review should be performance, both of the company and the individual.

We have consistently advised our members that unjustified salary increases carry the seeds of their own destruction in provoking hostility from employees, shareholders and the media. It is difficult to justify a large increase in the face of a company's declining profitability.

Yours faithfully,
BLENYTH JENKINS
(Director of Corporate Affairs, Institute of Directors),
116 Pall Mall,
SW1.

Credit for Lloyd's figures wrongly given

From Mr P. N. Archard

Sir, I read your article, "Lloyd's may lose £1.65bn" with some surprise. The article quoted a range of projections and said that they had been compiled by the Lloyd's Underwriting Agents' Association. Just to put the record straight, the projections were, in fact, put together by the Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM) using information obtained from managing agents.

This association's only involvement was to recommend in December 1991 that managing agents should provide forecast "bottom line" results for the 1989 year of account to their supporting members' agents by the end of January this year. No doubt this initiative, which was designed to ensure that members' agents were well placed to advise Names of impending losses at an early stage, prompted the ALM to compile their overall result.

Frequently, the agency community is upbraided for not producing enough figures. It made an interesting change, particularly on April Fool's Day, to be given the credit for a set of numbers we did not compile!

Yours faithfully,
P. N. ARCHARD,
Chairman,
Lloyd's Underwriting Agents' Association,
Room 617,
Lloyd's,
Lime Street,
EC3.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Multimedia mania

Some big computer companies are moving into the consumer market, **Chris Partridge** writes

Hit by flagging sales in the business sector, the big computer manufacturing companies are starting to move into the consumer sector to take up the slack.

Until recently, they have tried to avoid the mass market, with its low profit margins, uneducated buyers and high risk investment. They also have memories of past loss-making forays into the home computer market.

To appeal to the consumer market, some computer companies are trying to look more like consumer businesses. One such is Apple, which is hoping to break into new markets with products that will not just be another variation on the desktop or portable computer.

Apple, for example, is basing a move into the consumer market on multimedia, the new buzz word for the technology that combines computer data, graphics, still pictures and moving video or animated images on the same screen. Apple has a well established multimedia technology called Quicktime, and it is combining this with the cheap Macintosh personal computers and compact discs into what John Sculley, Apple's chairman, calls personal digital assistants.

In contrast to a personal computer, which is a jack of all trades, these will specialise in doing a small number of jobs well and making it easy for the operator. They will include organisers, electronic books, electronic note takers, display telephones and personal communicators.

Apple's electronic book, for example, is likely to look very like a small computer, but operate much more like a book, with "pages" of information. The difference will be that consulting some pages may trigger an animated sequence to illustrate the point, and the index will have the power to search the entire text for a key word or sequence of words, and many other ways of making connections that cannot be made by thumbing through a book encyclopaedia.

The sort of direction in which the consumer market for computer hardware might go is indicated by a new Sony product, the £350 Data Discman, to become available in Britain later this month.

Looking like a cross between a pocket television and a palmtop computer, it has a small liquid crystal display screen and a miniature keyboard and will display information stored on smaller 8cm compact discs.

Already, about a hundred data discs are available, some of genuine value compared with many multimedia offerings. Examples include the Chambers Dictionary and a thesaurus, a combination that should make searching by computer a really useful feature.

'A lot of growth is expected for the sector'

There is also Harrap's multilingual dictionary covering English, French, German and Japanese; Nicholson's London map, and the Michelin Guide to Europe.

Who will buy an expensive piece of electronic equipment when a book will do the job much cheaper? What will therefore be crucial will be the price of the data discs, which Sony will not yet discuss.

Nicola Baty, marketing manager for the product, says: "We do not set the prices for the software, but we hope they will range from £15, in line with books and video games."

Initial sales are expected to be in specialist areas. "One is the company user, who will look up service data on the unit," she says. "The other are men aged between 25 and 55 years. There is a grown-up schoolboy aspect.

"There is also a possibility that it will be taken up for high value publications available on a subscription basis, the sort of publication that costs several thousands pounds a year and is updated every so often with a new disc.

"The manufacturers believe that there is a lot of growth in the private sector, whereas growth in the business sector is sluggish," says Chris Fell, an industry analyst with Dataquest, a market research company. "The computer companies have two options. They can either sell at the high end, with high margins but low volumes, or to the mass market with small margins but high volumes.

"Their main problem is the distribution system, which is not as well oiled a channel as it is for the leading consumer companies."

The distribution problem is crucial. Even the cheapest PCs are usually sold through several levels of distributors and dealers, who offer a certain amount of after-sales support and general advice to customers, but each middle operator takes a cut.

Selling to the consumer market needs special skills, which is why Amstrad, a consumer company, has had most success in the British consumer market.

The big computer companies are starting to move in, however. One channel they are using is direct selling, usually mail order. An expanding area of the computer press is thick glossy magazines consisting mainly of price lists of more or less identical personal computers, together with order forms.

Direct sales through out-of-town superstores, computer versions of do-it-yourself warehouses, are also expected to boom, with several expected by the end of the year.

DES JENSON

Pocket-size electronic encyclopaedia: Nicola Baty and Sony's new Data Discman

Hardware, software, going for a song

The number of companies forced into receivership by the recession means a lot of computers, fax machines and office furniture are being sent to auction to meet debts. And bargains are there for the taking.

"The state of the computer market is fairly awful," says John Russell, auctioneer with the London Computer Auction Rooms. "Consequently, the state of our market is very good.

"There used to be a two-month lapse between a product being released and our getting hold of it. Now that period is shortened to six weeks."

When a company goes bankrupt, its computer and furniture assets may be sold at auction. Receivers prefer auctions because they know that a company's assets all will be sold on a particular day and the booked can be closed. The vendor and buyer are usually charged a fee.

Much of the equipment is virtually new and prices range from between £400 and £500 for a good business computer to £500 for a laser printer. Software typically costs a fifth of the list price.

A lot of good stock also becomes available because dealers, distributors and sometimes manufacturers overstock, then try to dispose of it at reduced prices.

Usually the price you pay depends upon the brand and age of the machine. The standard reduction on fairly new items is usually a third off retail. Some systems, however, realise only about 10 per cent of their true value. Not all auction houses will let you test equipment before you buy.

There are other bargains to be had at high-tech auctions

Auction man: Darren Latter, of TCS

'Vendors must offer a 48-hour warranty'

A mixed bag of potential purchasers attend auctions, among them end users, dealers and manufacturers, through to local and central government and large corporations.

"How you fare depends on who is bidding against you on the day," says Darren Latter, managing director of Technology Computer Services, a company that holds auctions in Kent. "Sometimes you can pick up a bargain, at others you may not be so lucky. Our worst turnout has been around 400 people. Our best turnout has been 1,200 people."

For the first-time buyer, the bidding process can be confusing and long-winded and can be a big gamble because once you have bought a piece of equipment, you are stuck with it. It is not like a shop where you can take it back and say 'Sorry, I don't like it'. Once you have bought it, it is yours.

Both TCS and London Auctions have advisers to recommend what is suitable and to keep a close eye on vendors.

"We bind the vendors to provide a guarantee of description and a 48-hour warranty which covers the description," Mr Latter, says.

"So long as it is not described 'as seen', the vendor will guarantee it. We manage to connect 99 per cent of the equipment to power, so that at viewing times potential customers can see it, check an item and satisfy themselves that it is what they want."

Most types of payment are accepted, so long as the funds are cleared (authorised by credit card company or supported by cheque card).

The amount of computer goods going through auctions is increasing and quality is improving.

"The receivers are tougher these days. Usually they like to get a certain figure back, but it is well within what everybody is prepared to pay," Mr Latter adds.

"You cannot get a £10,000 system for £100. Receivers want good money back, even if that amounts to only 10 per cent."

CLIVE COULDWELL

HUNTING FOR THE BEST BUYS

SOME of the auction houses that sell computer equipment in the London area:

● Technology Computer Services Limited, 149 Addington Road, Selsdon, South Croydon (081-651 3639). Auctions every Saturday, or alternate Saturdays, within the Kent area. Best known for IBM-compatible equipment. There are usually 1,000 lots of current personal computers, ranging from IBM XTs to 486 systems, as well as laser printers, software, and a selection of add-ons. Sellers are charged between 11 and 18 per cent, depending on value.

● London Computer Auction Rooms, 392 Finchley Road, London (071-794 1046). Auctions every fortnight, normally on a Sunday but always at the weekend. Ninety-five per cent of goods sold are IBM-compatible with an average 1,600 lots. Between 250 and 800 people turn up on certain days.

هكذا من الأصل

George Cole on the radio system that gives good sound and does away with re-tuning as one drives across country

Keep an ear out for the digital wireless

A new radio system, described by the BBC as "the most significant development this decade", promises interference-free broadcasts with compact disc sound quality. Digital audio broadcasting, or DAB, is expected to take the wireless into the digital age within three years, as well as introducing a new generation of satellite radio channels.

Since the first digital compact disc players were introduced in 1982, sound recording and broadcasting systems have been steadily moving towards digital formats that convert the audio signal into a series of numbered pulses.

The vinyl LP is being quickly replaced by the CD and there are plans for smaller compact discs and new types of digital audio tape.

The BBC and ITV companies already broadcast digital sound in some areas but only for stereo television programmes using the Nicam system. Existing radio broadcasts use AM or FM analogue systems, which transmit the sound signal as a wave, rather than a series of pulses.

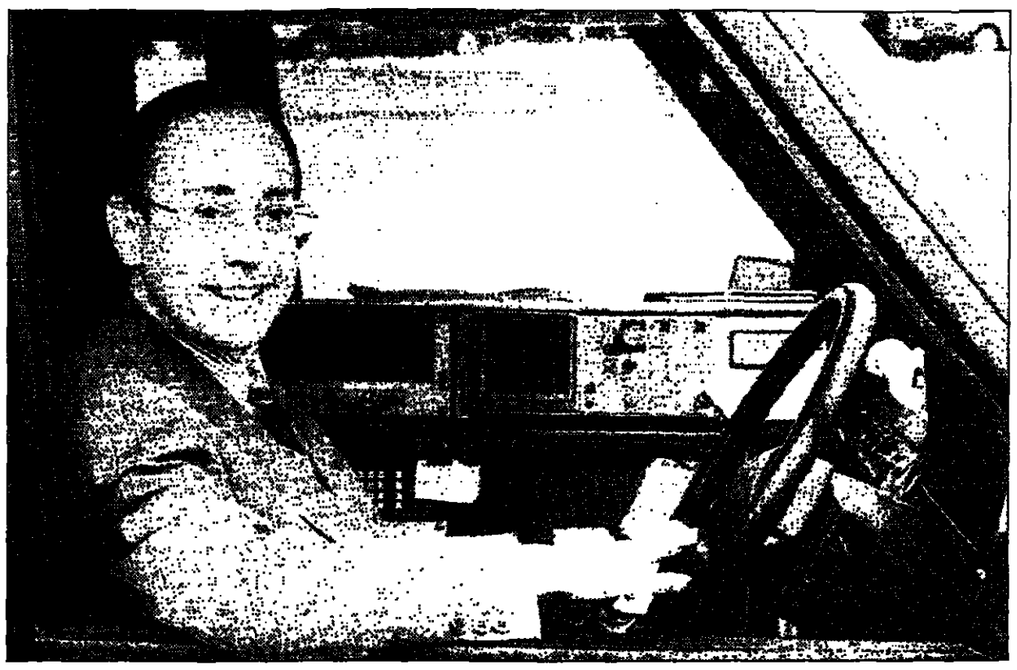
The FM system can give good quality, stereo sound, but it is not without problems. FM radio was developed in the 1940s and was designed for static roof-top aerials that pointed at a radio transmitter. But in the 1970s, the number of car and portable receivers rose and the broadcasting organisations altered FM signal transmissions to improve portable sound quality.

But this did not eliminate interference. One problem, known as multipath distortion, occurs when the radio signal bounces off buildings and hills, creating a series of "echo" signals.

These interfere with the original signal causing crackling and fading. Tall buildings can also create "dead spots", that cause a receiver to mute and in order to avoid interference between adjacent transmitters, radio stations are broadcast on different frequences throughout Britain. That is why drivers have to retune their radios constantly as they drive across country.

"Most people are fairly happy with radio sound quality," says Henry Price, head of engineering information at the BBC, "but they would like less interference".

One of the problems with digital broadcasting is that millions of pulses of information have to be sent every second and these use up a large part of the broadcasting spectrum. The pressure for spectrum space has increased due to the growing number of television, radio and satellite channels, and there is also competition from other systems such as radar and cellular phones.



A better earful: Henry Price, of the BBC, says the new system will be expensive at first, but should drop in price

Another problem is that multipath distortion in a digital signal produces vast numbers of false pulses which confuse the receiver and cause distortion.

Digital broadcasting uses a coding system which is about six times more efficient than that used by the CD format. The coding system makes use of a phenomenon known as "masking". If a quiet sound is mixed with a loud sound of a similar frequency it becomes hidden or "masked".

The system does not bother to code these masked sounds and so much less information is sent. The coding system is so efficient that five digital radio channels could fit into the space currently occupied by a single FM channel in Britain.

The coding system also helps to eliminate multipath distortion. Because the radio is receiving far fewer pulses, it has more time to differentiate between true and false pulses.

And digital broadcasting uses a second method to remove interference. Instead of transmitting the data as a single stream, it sends hundreds of separate channels, each of which contains relatively few pulses. This gives the receiver even more time to sort out the pulses.

This resistance to interference means a radio station could operate on a single frequency across a whole country or continent. Digital broadcasts can be sent via either satellite or terrestrial transmitters, or a mixture of both.

The simplest form of satellite broadcasting would involve pointing a satellite dish directly at an orbiting satellite, but this method would obviously not be practical for cars or portable radios.

The plan is to use satellites whose signals can be received by a small aerial attached to the roof of a car. An alternative method would involve the satellite sending its signal to a terrestrial transmitter for ground-based distribution.

A third system under consideration would use several satellites which constantly switch orbits so that one of them is always in sight of the aerial.

In February the World Administration Radio Conference, an international body responsible for allocating broadcasting frequencies, met at Torremolinos in Spain and finalised the satellite frequencies for digital broadcasting.

However, these frequencies are currently in use and are unlikely to be free before 2007. For this reason, broadcast organisations are pursuing terrestrial transmissions. One possibility is for digital broadcasts to use unused television channels — the BBC for example is looking at the old 405-line frequencies. The BBC has for some time been using test vans in the London and Birmingham areas.

Digital radios will be operated by push-buttons and will also receive regular long, medium and FM wave broadcasts, which will co-exist with digital.

Mr Price admits that the first DAB receivers will not be cheap.

"However, you have to remember that the first calculators were very expensive, too," he says. "We would expect DAB to be used in all kinds of receivers, from bed-side clock radios, to personal stereos and kitchen portables."

Do we really need colour?

Advances in PCs offer more choice — but they can mean problems

This is a true story of modern office technology. A well-known television producer went to his secretary recently and complained that his computer was broken — he had been typing scripts all day in green letters on a purple screen.

Fortunately the secretary recognised the work of the office wag, who had adjusted the more obscure settings on the colour system. Retribution was swift, but tempered by the producer's mortification at his own ineptitude with an essential tool of his trade.

Gone are the days when personal computers came in a choice of one colour. Today's office is a blaze of colour and light.

People use word processors set to a tasteful shade of blue, accounts that are in the red are shown in red and progress up the management hierarchy can be measured by the size of the colour screen on your desk.

Colour displays now account for nine out of every ten personal computers sold and, with volume production, the extra cost of colour is as little as £90. Within two or three years monochrome will be dead, the dealers predict.

"A year ago we were still offering a range of PCs that came with either monochrome or colour displays," says one London dealer, Action Computer Supplies. "This year, we don't have a single mono system in our catalogue."

A bewildering variety of colour displays is available, each with different resolutions and quality of colour.

Advanced designs, such as the bizarre revolving colour which rotates from vertical to horizontal and is selling well, rub shoulders with IBM's tired display standard, which even in its heyday was widely deemed to be scarcely adequate for text display.

Some magazine small advertisements even sell systems with green or orange screens as "colour", and it is scurrilously rumoured that certain owners of Amstrad PCW systems think that this is an advanced feature of their system.

"People like colour," says Fiona Macrae of market analysts Romtec. "The trouble is that they do not stop to think. If it looks good at a quick glance, they will buy it."

But why does the average user need 256 or more colours? Most computer dealers explain that colour is useful for charts and graphics and invaluable for the Windows graphics interface that they are also selling.

"It's cute," is the response from a more cynical dealer. "It looks really good on their desks, but who needs colour for word processing or accounts?

"It is a case of being able to say 'Don't the accounts look pretty displayed in green?' In fact, pound for pound you get a better quality of display from monochrome."

Parallels can be drawn with the early days of desktop publishing. Many users, given the *possibility* of publishing their own documents convinced themselves that they had also been granted the *ability*. Some of the results were horrible.

Are we now starting to see executives who fondly think that they can produce their own colour slides for presentations or print their own colour brochures?

This complaint from a jaded secretary is beginning to sound familiar: "He prepared these charts on his screen in red and green and blue, and then he asks me to print them out. But they all come out black-on-black, because we don't have a colour printer. It takes me hours to get it right and then he wants to know what's been keeping me".

Mike Black, a typesetting specialist who runs the Text Formatting Company, has been called in many times.

"Let's face it, with modern software, you can do a good semi-professional job on a low budget. But it's never been just a question of technology. The expert uses a few typefaces and simple colour to get a quality look.

"If you put a novice in front of the screen you wind up with headlines set in orange or purple. I have learnt to walk away from those jobs because they are not worth the grief.

"You are dealing with a know-all who hits the roof when you tell him how you think it ought to be done and what your fees are going to be."

Unfortunately — or, perhaps, fortunately — high quality colour printers are still expensive. As one IBM executive confides: "When I can afford a good colour printer I'll send my love letters in purple, but until then I'm sticking to black-and-white."

KIM WILSON

Motor racers find the winning formula

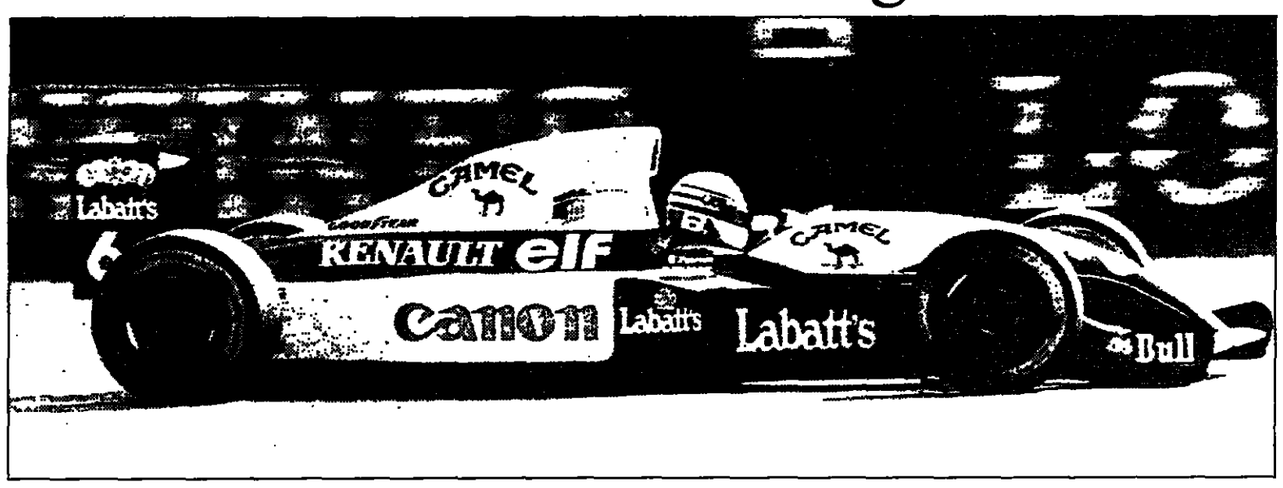
Black boxes are helping Formula One drivers speed around the racing tracks faster than ever before

When Nigel Mansell took his third chequered flag in a row at the Brazilian grand prix last week, the win highlighted not only the skill of the British driver and his Williams-Renault team, but also the important role of information technology in motor racing.

Mansell's team, in common with others on the circuit, has been harnessing a telemetry system that allows engineers and mechanics in the pits to monitor the health of a racing car's engine and suspension.

The system, developed by Groupe Bull, in collaboration with software company Gipsi, Silicon Graphics and MIPS Computers, is playing a crucial role in ensuring that Mansell's car and its Renault RS3 engine operate at peak performance. It offers pointers on how to improve preparations for races, while giving designers of the vehicle and its engine clues on improvements and modifications.

Meanwhile, other industries involved in motor racing are finding they are being helped in developing products, says Alain Pajot of Bull. An example is Elf, the French petrochemicals company that supplies oils to the Williams-Renault team. It has been able to design new engine oils tailored for different racing conditions around the world.



Helpful advice: sensors on the car transmit information to technicians in the pits who can tell the driver how well his vehicle is performing

At the heart of the Bull system are sensors, made by Magneti Marelli, placed at key points around the vehicle. They can pick up features such as oil and water temperature, fuel levels and the behaviour of the car's suspension.

Mounted above the fuel tank is a "black box" where data acquired from the sensors is stored. This is linked to another unit in the cockpit which allows the driver to see on a dashboard LCD screen some of the information coming from the sensors which may be relevant to his driving. Mr Pajot says it is crucial not to give the driver all the information from the sensors because it may distract him. After each lap, data stored in the black box is relayed via an antenna mounted on the car to monitoring units in the pits consisting of a computer, a screen and a multigraphics printer. Another screen is also available to the technicians and engineers so they can compare the performance of Mansell's vehicle with the other Williams-Renault car driven by Riccardo Patrese.

Up to 100 parameters at a time are relayed in the high frequency transmission from the car, which is triggered by a special signal from the pits. From this data, engineers can study the performance of the car, drawing up a log that will indicate how the car's various parts are behaving as the race develops.

Technicians can then relay back to Mansell advice such as "you can go faster, the car is running well", Mr Pajot says.

The monitoring data also helps indicate the best time for Mansell to make a routine or urgent pit stop. Should this arise, engineers can modify any of the car's parameters such as engine speed, by programming a small portable computer that can be connected to the vehicle's engine management system.

Such systems are a long way from the first reported use of information technology in motor racing when, in 1966, Colin Chapman fitted an aircraft flight recorder, or black box, on to a racing car.

The device, although bulky, offered engineers valuable insights into the amount of aerodynamic lift at the same time as very wide tyres were becoming popular.

Chapman's foray into IT was followed by Porsche and Matra. However, telemetry systems only began making an appearance in the late 1980s.

Mr Pajot says the next developments are starting to emerge in monitoring and relaying information, including stress on the body shell.

NICK NUTTALL

ONLINE

Robots at war

MILLIONS of computers will be used on the battlefield of the future. They will range from shirt-pocket devices carried by foot soldiers and microprocessors carried in weapons to computer-based "gene libraries".

This is one of the predictions made in a study conducted for the US Army, in which the National Academy of Sciences assembled 100 experts to look at how wars will be conducted in 30 years. Robots will be swarming the battlefield, firing armour-piercing bullets.

Tangled tape

THE European Commission has unveiled plans for a computer system which should cut the red tape tangling value added tax (VAT) payments in the European Community. The computer will take over when border tax controls vanish with the introduction of the EC's single market in 1993.

From January 1 tax controls on intra-EC trade will be carried out retrospectively on the basis of standard commercial documents such as invoices and quarterly VAT returns. The computerised VAT Information Exchange System (VIES), which will be linked up to national VAT databanks, will allow companies to check the VAT credentials of firms in other member states with which they are doing business.

The system should be running from November to give traders time to prepare for a July 1, 1993 deadline for making their first VAT declaration.

Ring Cuba

A MEXICAN telephone company is to help install a cellular telephone network in Cuba.

The private company, International Telecommunications of Mexico, and the state-owned Cuban Telecommunications (Emtelcuba), have set up a joint venture to introduce a public cellular network for a period of 20 years, after which time the company will become nationalised.

The cellular telephone company will be exempt from taxes and will not have to pay duty on imported goods needed for the project. The venture is the result of a law allowing foreign companies to invest in Cuba.

Sales shine

SUN Microsystems is to license the designs of its microprocessors to clients in order to broaden its sales base.

Sun, the world leader in the market for workstation computers that are often used by engineers, said it hopes to convince computer makers to sell systems that are based on its Sparc chips.

Sun said its licensing program will give customers access to advanced technology that they might not be able to develop on their own and enable Sun to share research and development expenses. It said two customers have begun selling multimedia audio chips designed in conjunction with Sun.

Next week's Infotech Times will appear on Thursday, April 16, because of the Good Friday bank holiday.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
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Masterrust	83.76	89.58	- 0.22	2.62
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Dividend Gth	44.74	47.59	+ 0.63	6.30
Global Gth Sec	53.52	56.93	- 0.02	2.71
Ethical Growth	52.06	55.38	+ 0.16	3.29
High Inc Equity	118.00	125.50	+ 1.50	6.77
Worldwide Bond	220.00	233.20	- 0.20	6.10
Gilts Fixed Int	116.30	123.30	+ 0.40	8.39
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
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Amer Inc Gth	30.13	31.88	- 0.16	2.65
European	70.73	75.18	- 0.95	...
European Inc	71.31	75.23	- 0.71	1.78
Exempt	766.70	796.20	+ 6.50	3.52
Extra Inc	33.17	36.26	+ 0.41	6.29
F East Emerg Ec	54.24	58.13	- 0.40	1.10
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS				
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon, SN1 1EL 0793 514514 Dealing 0793 610366				
High Inc	300.80	321.50	+ 5.20	6.03
Equity Inc	175.50	187.60	+ 2.50	5.60
High Yield	190.40	203.50	+ 2.30	5.66
Balanced	524.70	560.90	+ 7.60	3.61
American Inc	34.19	36.47	- 0.19	4.25
Wld Asset Val	29.29	31.29	- 0.13	1.60
Japan	102.70	108.40	- 2.00	0.01
Secs of Am	328.40	348.10	- 1.00	0.17
BARCLAYS UNICORN				
Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, London E7 081 534 5544				
Capital	88.19	94.51	+ 0.98	3.74
Euro Gth Inc	98.71	104.70	- 1.40	1.64
Extra Inc	84.70	90.59	+ 0.69	7.42
General	190.60	203.90	+ 3.20	4.46
Gilt Fxd Inc	52.19	54.06	+ 0.18	10.02
Income	382.70	409.30	+ 2.50	6.93
BARING FUND MANAGERS				
PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ 081 658 9002				
American Gth	68.79	72.88	- 0.53	0.30
Amer Smllr Cos	81.07	86.42	- 1.63	...
Australia	60.60	65.25	- 0.30	2.10

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
CAPEL (JAMES) UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
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American Index	147.30	156.40	- 0.80	2.03
Capital	426.70	455.30	+ 6.00	3.64
European Index	112.70	119.60	- 0.90	1.50
Euro Gth	74.06	78.83	- 0.77	1.83
Far East Growth	59.54	63.54	- 0.77	0.52
Global Bond	20.24	21.31	...	6.83
Hong Kong	46.30	49.41	- 0.76	1.82
Income	397.50	424.20	+ 5.10	5.48
Intl Growth	57.91	61.07	- 0.50	1.36
Japan Growth	153.00	163.20	- 2.40	...
Japan Smllr Cos	21.19	22.61	- 0.30	
Japan Index	42.32	45.16	- 0.85	0.49
Nth American	311.00	331.60	- 4.00	1.47
S'pore Mly Gth	32.99	35.20	- 0.38	...
Tiger Index	97.36	103.90	- 0.90	1.16
Trsee Index	82.84	88.40	+ 0.45	3.86
UK Index	102.20	109.00	+ 1.30	4.44
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
16 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN 071 606 0708				
American P folio	60.29	64.46	- 0.71	1.65
European P folio	63.41	67.66	- 0.94	1.16
Japanese P folio	36.59	38.92	- 0.78	...
Pacific P folio	69.25	74.47	- 1.09	2.63
Cazenove P folio	55.42	59.28	- 0.43	3.42
UK Income Gth	51.41	55.29	- 0.13	6.41
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND				
2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ 071 588 1815				
Investment Fd	511.55	514.85	...	5.65
Fixed Int	139.45	140.05		10.35
Deposit	9.90		10.27	
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND				
2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ 071 588 1815				
Income	493.70	509.24		5.94
-do- Acc	1869.0	1894.0		...
Deposit	9.80	...	10.17	...
Fxd Int Inc	113.45	113.68		10.20
-do- Acc	135.95	136.22	...	...

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 7QW 0296 431480				
Pelican	91.37	96.18	+ 1.47	5.72
High Income	96.60	101.68	+ 1.52	6.77
Tst of Inv Tsts	105.61	111.17	- 0.15	3.54
Special Sits	81.87	86.18	+ 0.86	4.39
North American	80.90	85.16	+ 0.04	1.17
Far Eastern	155.65	163.87	- 1.82	1.73
Intl Growth	69.25	72.89	- 0.23	2.65
European	57.89	60.94	- 0.70	1.89
Smaller Cos	56.42	59.39	+ 0.13	3.25
American Gth	91.13	97.46	- 0.93	0.15
European Gth	58.10	62.14	- 0.88	0.82
German Horizn	43.15	46.08	- 0.39	0.47
Japan Gth	47.36	50.66	- 0.77	...
Pacific Inc	92.98	99.44	- 0.84	2.50
Pacific Strategy	66.15	70.74	- 0.28	0.38
UK Prog Inc	61.64	65.93	+ 1.26	8.42
Gt British Cos	41.54	44.42	+ 0.44	2.78
UK Small Cos	35.46	37.93	+ 0.95	2.75
GRE UNIT MANAGERS				
36 Harbour Exchange Sq, London E14 9GE 071 538 9008				
Cash	123.70	123.70	+ 0.10	9.10
Gilt Fixed	108.60	115.10	+ 0.50	7.91
Growth Equity	239.80	256.10	+ 3.50	3.41

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
High Yield	98.73	105.00	+ 1.63	7.38
Smllr Cos Div	35.13	37.37	...	7.95
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	66.57	70.82	- 0.19	0.05
North American	55.40	58.94	- 0.63	0.68
European	112.50	119.70	- 1.20	0.99
Euro Special	73.99	78.71	- 0.63	0.60
Fund of Inv Tsts	25.04	26.64	- 0.04	2.70
General	230.70	245.40	+ 4.00	3.88
Intl Recovery	97.84	104.10	+ 0.80	2.04
Japan	249.80	265.70	- 4.80	...
Japanese Special	140.30	149.30	- 2.40	...
Master Acc	176.50	187.80	- 0.40	2.27
Pacific	178.40	189.80	- 2.50	0.70
Smaller Cos	77.78	82.74	+ 0.11	4.25
UK Equity Gth	26.49	28.18	+ 0.27	2.98
High Yield	41.02	43.54	+ 0.75	7.08
Intl Income	50.24	53.33	+ 0.07	4.00
Japan	30.07	31.92	- 0.21	...
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
33 King William St, EC4R 9AS 071 280 2060				
American	133.70	141.90	...	0.10
-do- Acc	142.80	151.70	...	0.10
Cash	101.70	101.70	...	10.19
-do- Acc	120.90	120.90	...	10.19
European Gth	167.30	177.10	...	0.52
-do- Acc	177.60	188.00	...	0.52
General	366.00	390.40	...	3.11
-do- Acc	680.40	725.70	...	3.11

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
PERPETUAL UNIT TRUST				
48 Hart Street, Henley on Thames 0491 576868				
Asian Smllr Mkt	53.18	56.88	- 0.75	1.11
PEP Gth Inc	70.62	75.54	- 0.40	1.93
Intl Gth	338.92	362.49	- 1.45	0.93
Income	209.35	223.91	+ 3.17	5.11
W'wide Recov	208.29	222.78	+ 0.37	0.46
American Gth	137.23	146.78	+ 0.88	0.01
Intl Emerg Cos	117.54	125.72	- 0.85	0.47
Far East Gth	124.85	133.53	- 1.94	0.37
European Gth	85.74	91.71	+ 0.27	1.52
UK Growth	54.62	58.42	+ 1.54	4.01
High Income	58.30	62.36	+ 0.73	6.02
Japanese Gth	118.64	126.80	- 1.77	0.01
Intl Growth Acc	21.59	23.11	- 0.30	1.28
Global Inc Acc	22.98	24.60	+ 0.02	4.89
Markt Ldrs Acc	20.98	22.45	+ 0.15	5.08
SG TOUCHE REMNANT				
Mermaid Hse, 2 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3AT 071 248 1250				
American Gth	59.86	64.02	...	
Euro Spec Sits	36.43	38.88	...	2.10
-do- Acc	38.02	40.57	...	2.10
Far East Opps	21.04	22.67		...
-do- Acc	21.48	23.14	...	
General Growth	79.26	84.54		3.43
Global Tech	82.92	89.56	...	...
Challenger	71.51	73.19	+ 0.18	...
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
1 White Oak Square, Swanley BR8 7AG 0705 388046				
Stockmarket Fd	53.49	56.90	+ 0.78	3.01

Source: Firstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data.

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

Abbey Natl	2,000	Coats Vyla	2,000	Lloyds Bk	1,800	Ryl Bk Scot	1,000
Alld-Lyons	2,500	Cm Union	775	MB Cardn	756	Sainsbury	1,200
Anglian W	2,800	Courtaulds	899	MEPC	127	Scot & New	331
Argyll Gp	3,900	ECC Gp	555	Marks Spr	4,300	Scot Power	8,300
Arjo Wiggn	1,800	Enterpr Oil	660	Midlnd Bk	3,100	Sears	7,400
AB Foods	478	Eurotnl U	1,400	NFC	359	Svrn Trent	2,300
BAA	1,800	Fisons	5,600	NatWst Bk	5,600	Shell Trans	4,100
BAT Inds	2,300	Forte	1,300	Nat Power	6,700	Siebe	602
BET	2,600	GRE	537	Nth Wst W	2,400	SmKl Bch	1,900
BOC	541	GUS A	342	Nthrn Fds	975	Smith Nph	3,900
BP	8,400	Gen Acc	2,200	P & O	1,300	Smth (WH)	1,100
BTR	3,200	Gen Elec	5,500	Pearson	955	Sun Allnce	2,400
Bk of Scot	2,700	Glaxo	2,100	Pilkington	3,800	TSB	1,700
Barclays	8,700	Grand Met	2,300	PowerGen	7,200	Tate & Lyle	1,000
Bass	713	Guinness	3,900	Prudential	4,500	Tesco	7,400
Blue Circle	905	Hanson	7,500	RMC	336	Thames W	2,900
Boots	1,000	Hillsdown	2,200	RTZ	2,600	Thrn EMI	1,100
Bowater	542	ICI	1,400	Rank Org	676	Tomkins	474
Brit Aero	2,300	Inchcape	1,000	Reckitt Col	437	Unilever	1,700
Brit Airwys	2,100	Kingfisher	2,000	Redland	2,600	Utd Bisc	680
Brit Gas	6,000	LASMO	2,400	Reed Intl	1,400	Vodafone	1,800
Brit Steel	6,600	Ladbroke	1,500	Rentokil	1,200	Wellcome	846
Brit Tele	4,100	Land Secs	954	Reuters	1,800	Whitbd 'A'	2,400
Cable Wire	1,700	Laporte	516	Rolls Royce	3,300	Wlms Hld	1,500
Cadbury	1,800	Legal & Gn	902	Rothmans	279	Willis Crrn	526

MAJOR INDICES

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Dow Jones ...... 3208.86 (+27.50)
S&P Composite ... 398.51 (+4.01)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge 16598.15 (-577.38)

Hong Kong:
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FT-SE Euro 100 1140.98 (-2.47)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 123.4 (-0.6)

Sydney: AO .... 1545.3 (-9.0)

Frankfurt: DAX 1720.25 (+0.24)

Brussels:
General .... 5640.53 (-62.74)

Paris: CAC .... 523.57 (-6.65)

Zurich: SKA Gen ... 472.4 (-0.3)

London:
FT A All-Share 1163.91 (+19.06)
FT 500 .... 1322.49 (+21.60)
FT Gold Mines ...... 112.3 (+0.8)
FT Fixed interest ... 99.44 (+0.33)
FT Govt Secs .... 86.00 (+0.39)
Bargains 26426
SEAQ Volume 506.2m
USM (Datastrm) . 130.16 (+1.29)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
March 30	April 10	July 9	July 20

Call options were taken out on 9/4/92: Barratt Devs, Berkeley Group, Gestetner, Manweb, Medeva, National Power, Persimmon, Premier Cons Oil, Rothmans 'B', Scottish Power, Slough Estates, Yorkshire Electricity. Puts: BTR, Euro Disney.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Lyon ..	550	42	53	70	4	15	21
(*583)	600	10	26	44	22	39	45
ASDA	30	3	5½	6½	2½	5	6½
(*30½)	35	-	4	5½	-	8½	10½
Bass	500	29	44	60	6	17	24
(*527½)	525	12	30	45	16	30	35
Boots	390	32	40	51	3	11	14

		Calls			Puts		
Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAA	500	57	67	81	4	12	17
(*548)	550	21	35	50	18	31	38
BAT Ind ...	650	47	65	67	11	22	32
(*677½)	700	17	36	47	34	45	57
BTR	420	15	27	34	13	19	23
(*418)	460	3	11	17	43	45	47
Br Aero	300	29	43	51	10	17	26
(*316½)	330	14	27	36	26	30	41

		Calls			Puts		
Series		Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Abby Nat ...	260	18	24	31	7½	11½	14
(*265½)	280	9	14	21	19	22	24
Amstrad	30	5½	8	8½	4½	5½	7
(*31)	35	3½	5½	6½	7½	8½	9½
Barclays ...	300	21	28	34	14	22	23
(*303½)	330	8	15	19	33	40	41

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Jun 92	2439.0	2480.0	2425.0	2476.0	7424
Previous open interest: 34996	Sep 92				2512.0	0
Three Month Sterling	Jun 92	89.21	89.30	89.19	89.24	28096
Previous open interest: 208378	Sep 92	89.62	89.63	89.52	89.60	7415
	Dec 92	89.78	89.83	89.72	89.81	2636
Three Mth Eurodollar	Jun 92	95.71	95.72	95.70	95.70	1572
Previous open interest: 36765	Sep 92	95.41	95.44	95.40	95.42	1248
Three Mth Euro DM	Jun 92	90.55	90.56	90.48	90.54	13274
Previous open interest: 232898	Sep 92	90.85	90.94	90.80	90.91	39561
US Treasury Bond	Jun 92	99-12	99-17	99-07	99-11	992
Previous open interest: 2948	Sep 92				98-09	0
Long Gilt	Jun 92	94-17	94-30	94-12	94-28	20188
Previous open interest: 56124	Sep 92				95-05	0
Japanese Govnt Bond	Jun 92	101.21	101.29	101.18	101.25	771
	Sep 92				101.00	0
German Govnt Bond	Jun 92	87.83	88.02	87.71	87.93	56280
Previous open interest: 113935	Sep 92	88.38	88.40	88.38	88.38	82
Three month ECU	Jun 92	90.08	90.08	90.02	90.06	1723
Previous open interest: 8730	Sep 92	90.37	90.41	90.30	90.37	707
Euro Swiss Franc	Jun 92	91.93	91.98	91.83	91.88	6543
Previous open interest: 43301	Sep 92	92.35	92.37	92.24	92.28	3728
Italian Govnt Bond	Jun 92	97.87	97.99	97.72	97.92	13393
Previous open interest: 40089	Sep 92	98.01	98.06	97.88	98.05	115

COMMODITIES

REPORT: May prices in the potato market were lower and if the current physical trade conditions persist, together with *no problems with April tenders, a test of contract lows is* possible. Robusta coffee futures saw an early advance clawed back and prices finished mostly little changed. Cocoa futures finished firmer but below the day's highs as an early rally fuelled by heavy buying from a US operator ran out of steam.

LONDON FOX

COCOA

May	618-617	Jul	781-780
Jul	646-644	Sep	801-800
Sep	671-669	Dec	827-826
Dec	706-704	Mar	857-845
Mar	740-739		
May	761-759		Volume: 5919

ROBUSTA COFFEE (£)

May	857-856	Jan	922-920
Jul	874-873	Mar	935-930
Sep	889-888	May	955-940
Nov	905-903		Volume: 967

RAW SUGAR (FOB)

C Czarnikow		Dec	200.0-90.0
Spot: n/a		Mar	194.0-92.0
May	218.0-17.0	May	192.0-90.0
Aug	209.0-08.6	Aug	194.0-92.0
Oct	200.0 BID		Volume: 855

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	266.2-64.5
Spot: 278.5		Mar	267.7-66.2
May	273.0-72.0	May	270.7-68.2
Aug	275.8-75.0	Aug	274.7-70.2
Oct	266.2-64.5		Volume: 1528

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 9

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	105.51	90.39	111.53
(+/-)	+1.07	-10.32	-0.47
Eng/Wales:	105.66	92.73	111.64
(+/-)	+0.96	-9.09	-0.06
(%)	+10.4	-28.9	-19.1
Scotland:	91.23	79.19	111.09
(+/-)	+2.93	-18.11	-1.92
(%)	-31.3	-54.3	-34.8

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Live Pig (£/kg)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Apr	127.5	127.5	Jun	119.5	119.5
May	126.0	125.9			Volume: 45

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

May	123.70
Jun	125.35
Sep	112.65
Nov	115.70
Jan	119.65
	Volume: 174

BARLEY (close £/t)

May	115.50
Sep	109.25
Nov	112.70
Jan	116.55
Mar	118.95
	Volume: 9

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)

Apr	130.50
Jun	120.80
Aug	122.00
Oct	126.30
Dec	130.50
	Volume: 75

POTATO

(£/t)	Open	Close
May	118.0	116.2
Jun	125.0	125.0
Nov	unq	82.0
		Volume: 97

RUBBER
No 1 RSS Cif (p/kg)
May 55.75-55.25

LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR)

London 6.00pm: A concentrated round of profit taking put downward pressure on prices.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.00	-0.15
Brent 15 day (May)	18.95	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.90	-0.13
W Texas Intermediate (May)	20.30	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.35	-0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	Bid: 210 (-1)	Offer: 214 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	174 (-1)	175 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H May	175 (n/c)	176 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Jun	176 (..)	176 (..)
3.5 Fuel Oil	70 (n/c)	72 (n/c)
Naphtha	178 (+1)	180 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES
GNI Ltd
GAS OIL

Apr	173.25-73.50	Jul	173.75-74.00
May	173.50-73.75	Aug	175.00-75.50
Jun	173.25-73.50	Sep	176.50-77.00
			Vol: 23407

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	18.96-19.00	Aug	18.78-18.84
Jun	18.93-18.94	Sep	18.76 SLR
Jul	18.85 BID		Vol: 16989

UNLEADED GASOLINE

Apr	211.50 BID	Jul	218.00 SLR
May	213.00-13.50	Aug	n/a
Jun	218.00 SLR		Vol: 85

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 92	1165	1148	1164
May 92	1163	1145	1163
Jun 92	1060	1045	1063
Jul 92	1066	1038	1066

Vol: 284 lots. Open int'st: 2418 Index 1143 -6

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1271.5-1272.0	1298.5-1299.0	563850
Lead (£/tonne)	304.50-305.00	316.75-317.00	35800
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1263.0-1264.0	1253.5-1254.0	169075
Tin ($/tonne)	5800.0-5805.0	5790.0-5795.0	7420
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1321.0-1322.0	1348.0-1348.5	880200
Nickel ($/tonne)	7375.0-7377.0	7466.0-7470.0	21978

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 90.3 (day's range 90.1-90.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 10	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2071-3.2238	3.2208-3.2238	¾-½pr	1-¾pr
Brussels	58.56-58.93	58.82-58.93	5pr-par	20-15pr
Copenhagen	11.0558-11.1069	11.0936-11.1069	¼-⅛pr	1¾-¾pr
Dublin	1.0700-1.0760	1.0750-1.0760	3pr-1ds	9-2pr
Frankfurt	2.8498-2.8603	2.8574-2.8603	¼-⅛pr	¾-½pr
Lisbon	244.11-246.60	245.63-246.60	22-14pr	1-70ds
Madrid	180.54-181.34	181.09-181.34	24-33ds	74-87ds
Milan	2149.12-2163.29	2160.67-2163.29	2-4ds	7-9ds
Montreal	2.0754-2.0934	2.0913-2.0934	0.59-0.55pr	1.31-1.23pr
New York	1.7430-1.7602	1.7595-1.7602	0.90-0.89pr	2.76-2.74pr
Oslo	11.1901-11.2477	11.2344-11.2477	⅞-⅝pr	1⅝-¾pr
Paris	9.6458-9.6917	9.6790-9.6917	½-¼pr	2-1⅝pr
Stockholm	10.3325-10.3852	10.3723-10.3852	1⅝-1⅞ds	3¾-4⅛ds
Tokyo	230.49-233.31	233.05-233.31	1¼-1pr	3½-3¼pr
Vienna	20.04-20.14	20.11-20.14	1⅜-¾pr	6½-4⅞pr
Zurich	2.6170-2.6315	2.6287-2.6315	½-¾pr	1½-1¼pr

Source: Extel — Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina peso*	1.7272-1.7300
Australia dollar	2.2872-2.2901
Bahrain dinar	0.653-0.661
Brazil cruzeiro *	3680.44-3682.91
Cyprus pound	0.7975-0.8075
Finland marka	7.78-7.84
Greece drachma	332.90-336.10
Hong Kong dollar	13.4938-13.5034
India rupee	50.22-50.62
Kuwait dinar KD	0.510-0.516
Malaysia ringgit	4.4479-4.4523
Mexico peso	5350-5450
New Zealand dollar	3.2029-3.2107
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.495-6.575
Singapore dollar	2.8834-2.8869
S Africa rand (fin)	5.9540-6.0607
S Africa rand (com)	5.0258-5.0322
U A E dirham	6.36-6.44

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.3114-1.3123
Austria	11.51-11.53
Belgium (Com)	33.65-33.69
Canada	1.1901-1.1906
Denmark	6.3450-6.3500
France	5.5325-5.5375
Germany	1.6345-1.6355
Hong Kong	7.7342-7.7352
Ireland	1.6270-1.6300
Italy	1232.0-1233.0
Japan	132.40-132.50
Malaysia	2.5494-2.5504
Netherlands	1.8400-1.8410
Norway	6.4240-6.4290
Portugal	140.40-140.70
Singapore	1.6527-1.6537
Spain	103.50-103.60
Sweden	5.9320-5.9370
Switzerland	1.5010-1.5020

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 10½ Finance Hse 11

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 8¾ Low 4¾ Week fixed: 9¾

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 10⁷⁄₁₆; 3 mth 10⁷⁄₁₆. Sell: 2 mth 10⁹⁄₁₆; 3 mth: 10⁵⁄₁₆.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	10⅝-⅝	10½-10⁷⁄₁₆	10¹⁵⁄₃₂-10⅜	10⁵⁄₁₆-10¼	
Sterling Money Rates:	10⁹⁄₁₆-10⁷⁄₁₆	10¾-10⅝	10⅞-10¾	10¹⁵⁄₁₆-10⅞	10¹³⁄₁₆-10⅞
Interbank:	10¹¹⁄₁₆-10⁹⁄₁₆	10¹¹⁄₁₆-10⁹⁄₁₆	10¹¹⁄₁₆-10⅝	10¾-10⅝	10¹³⁄₁₆-10⅞

Overnight: open 9¼, close 2.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	10⅝	n/a	10¾	10¹³⁄₁₆	11
Sterling CDs:	10½-10⅜	10¹¹⁄₁₆-10⁹⁄₁₆	10¾-10⅝	10¹³⁄₁₆-10¾	10⅞-10¾
Dollar CDs:	4.23-4.18	4.23-4.18	4.23-4.18	4.35-4.30	4.73-4.68
Building Society CDs:	10¹⁷⁄₃₂-¹⁵⁄₃₂	10²³⁄₃₂-¹⁹⁄₃₂	10²³⁄₃₂-10⅝	10⅞-10¾	10¹⁵⁄₁₆-10⅞

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Mar 31, 1992 Agreed rates Apr 26, 1992 to May 25, 1992 Scheme I: 11.77%. Schemes II & III: 11.84%. Reference rate Feb 29, 1992 to Mar 31, 1992 Scheme IV & V: 10.643%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	4¹¹⁄₁₆-3⁹⁄₁₆	4⅛-3⅞	4¼-4	4⅜-4⅛	4¼-3¾
Deutschemark:	9¾-9½	9¹¹⁄₁₆-9⁹⁄₁₆	9¹¹⁄₁₆-9⁹⁄₁₆	9¹¹⁄₁₆-9⁹⁄₁₆	9¼-8¾
French Franc:	10-9¾	10-9⅞	10-9⅞	10-9⅞	10-9
Swiss Franc:	8-7¾	8½-8¼	8½-8¼	8⅜-8⅛	8-7
Yen:	4¹¹⁄₁₆-4⁹⁄₁₆	4¹¹⁄₁₆-4⁹⁄₁₆	4⅝-4½	4⅝-4½	4¾-3¾

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Bullion: Open $338.10-338.50 Close: $338.20-338.70 High: $339.00-339.50 Low: $337.10-337.60 Krugerrand: $337.75-338.75 (£192.50-193.50)

Sovereigns: Old $80.50-81.50 (£46.00-47.00) New $81.50-82.50 (£46.50-47.50)

Platinum: $345.20 (£197.90) Silver: $4.10 (£2.335) Palladium: $83.80 (£48.05)

Strong gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 6. Dealings end April 24. §Contango day April 27. Settlement day May 5. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Helical Bar	Property	
2	Allied-Lyons	Breweries	
3	Guinness	Breweries	
4	GEC	Electrical	
5	Pentos	Drapery,Strs	
6	Smithkline	Industrial	
7	McCarthy & S	Building,Rds	
8	Vaux Group	Breweries	
9	Courtauld Text	Textiles	
10	Blockleys	Building,Rds	
11	TSB	Banks,Disc	
12	BT New	Electrical	
13	Lloyds	Banks,Disc	
14	Fine Art Dev	Drapery,Strs	
15	Stylo	Shoes,Lth	
16	Cap & Counties	Property	
17	Dalgety	Foods	
18	Yorkshire W	Water	
19	Powerscreen	Industrial	
20	Sainsbury J	Foods	
21	News Intl	Newspapr,Pub	
22	Bentalls	Drapery,Strs	
23	Blue Circle	Building,Rds	
24	Amwoods	Building,Rds	
25	Portals	Industrial	
26	BT	Electrical	
27	Vodafone	Electrical	
28	Barclays	Banks,Disc	
29	Hanson	Industrial	
30	Macarthy	Industrial	
31	Delta	Electrical	
32	Northumbrian	Water	
33	Ropner	Industrial	
34	Alexon	Drapery,Strs	
35	Dowty	Motors,Air	
36	St Ives Gp	Paper,Print	
37	Iceland Frozen	Foods	
38	Powell Duffryn	Transport	
39	Kleinwort Ben	Banks,Disc	
40	Scot TV	Leisure	
41	Laing (J)	Building,Rds	
42	Morgan Cble	Industrial	
43	Hillsdown	Foods	
44	Wimpey G	Building,Rds	
	© Times Newspapers Ltd.	Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Mr Witold Dowgiel, of Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, won the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
311	211	Abbey Ntl	266	- 2	...	5.3	8.4
185	126	Allied Irish	162	- 1	...	5.7	11.8
60	23	Ansbacher (H)	26	...	0.0	...	...
190½	119½	Aus New Z	175	+ 3	...	5.0	13.3
2662	1218	Bankamerica	2281 †	...	...	7.5	23.2
173½	115½	Bk of Ireland	142	- 1	...	...	...
1950	1900	Bk Leumi Isrl	1900 #	...	...	...	...
350	340	Bk Leumi UK	340	...	16.0	6.3	...
120	91	Bank Scotland	99	+ 1	...	5.7	21.5
499	285	Barclays	304	+ 9	21.1	9.3	63.6
12	3	Benchmark	4	...	...	...	15.9
270	134	Brown Shipley	134	- 1	8.0	8.0	...
27	12½	Carlisle	16	...	...	...	...
464	295	Cater Allen	310	...	25.0	10.8	...
78	52	Cattles	62	...	...	8.2	∞
1468	531	Chase Manh	1262 †	...	...	...	...
1037	462	Citicorp	856 †	...	...	...	...
270	225	Close Bros	250	- 1	8.8	4.7	11.2
9375	1500	Commerzbk	9337	+346	...	3.9	...
£255½	£191½	Deutsche Bk	£249	-150	...	2.1	...
213	25	First Nat Fin	31	+ 2	...	...	...
355	230	Gerrard Nat	238	- 2	20.5	11.5	...
336	174	HSBC	279	- 1	...	4.9	...
302	204	Hambros	216	- 6	12.8	7.9	8.5

BUILDING, ROADS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
494	340	Meyer Int	344	+ 4	16.5	6.4	17.2
17	6	Mildon Gp♦	6	...	...	...	...
356	114	Mowlem (J)	127	- 1	...	22.0	10.0
44	2½	NSM	2½	...	0.5	...	...
177	112	Newman Tnks	127	...	9.3	9.8	16.0
304	187	Persimmon	245	+ 4	8.6	4.7	14.5
55	16	Phoenix Timber	25	...	0.5	...	...
1250	875	Pochins	1250	...	24.0	2.6	9.4
301	131	Prowting	131	...	5.0	5.1	26.9
46	9	Quiligotti♦	9½	...	1.5	...	...
749	491	RMC Gp	554	+14	19.3	4.6	12.8
147	91	Raine Ind	100	+ 2	...	8.0	10.6
76	50	Ramus♦	69	...	0.1	0.2	...
658	416	Redland	490 †	+17	...	6.8	23.6
79	61	Roxbil♦	63	...	4.3	9.1	6.7
217	135	Rugby Group	181	+11	...	4.8	14.3
62	23	Sandell♦	29	- 1	...	...	...
68	33	Savild-Rye♦	34	...	1.0	3.9	∞
98	70	Sharpe & Fisher	91	...	4.0	6.0	∞
161	70	Sheffield Ind	70 †	...	5.4	10.3	∞
110	53	Sheriff Hldgs♦	66	...	1.5	3.0	19.3
148	62	Shoreo♦	65	...	5.2	11.1	∞
231	161	Smart (J)	218	- 5	7.9	4.9	7.5
22	10½	Stannin	10½	...	...	3.8	21.7
448	252	Steetley	448	+15	14.0	4.3	...
283	95	Tarmac	117	+ ½	11.2	12.8	13.2
175	106	Tay Homes	145 †	...	5.3	4.9	6.0
289	105	Taylor Woodrw	109	- 1	9.5	11.6	10.3
725	508	Tilbury Dougls	535	...	33.0	8.6	∞
41	26	Torex Hire♦	26	...	0.4	2.1	...
251	175	Travis Perkins	182	...	8.0	5.9	23.4
62	39	Try Group	47	- 2	6.0	17.0	6.4
33	22	Tudor♦	31	...	0.5	2.2	...
10	3	Venture Plant♦	7½	...	...	...	...
123	66	Vibroplant	91	...	3.6	5.3	12.7
208	63	Ward Group	64	...	7.2	...	2.8
100	40	Ward Hldgs	40	- 1	0.5	1.7	...
428	336	Watts Blake	343	- 2	9.3	3.7	∞
44	10	Wescol♦	15	...	...	...	...
190	94	Westbury	94	...	...	12.8	...
52	9	West Scaffold♦	15	...	...	...	...
62	6	Wiggins	8	...	...	...	...
451	335½	Wilson Bowdn	403 †	+ 3	8.7	2.9	∞
211	159	Wilson (C)	164	+ 1	3.9	3.2	∞
229	108	Wimpey G	152	+ 8	10.5	9.2	29.6
78	43	YRM	64	...	5.0	10.4	6.7

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
213	120	Allied Colloids	193	- 1	3.5	2.4	18.5
481	301	Amersham	422	+ 1	11.8	3.7	21.1
41½	20½	Anglo Utd	20½	...	...	10.3	...
247	144½	BTP	219	...	...	5.4	13.3
£106½	7281	Bayer DM50	£102	-150	...	4.7	∞
224	129	Blagden	191	...	9.5	6.6	∞
160½	115	Brent Chems	123 †	...	7.4	8.0	∞
128	42	Calid Gp	81	- 1	2.7	4.4	∞
171	94	Canning (W)	126 †	...	7.2	7.7	∞
203	142	Croda	165	+ 2	7.5	6.2	∞
218	165	Ellis & Everard	183	...	7.0	5.1	14.0
18	8	Euro Colour	9½	+ ½	0.6	9.1	32.7
124	43	Evode	56	...	3.5	8.5	...
406	202	Halstead (J)	406 †	+ 5	11.2	3.7	11.1
207	95	Hickson	172 †	- 1	8.0	6.2	∞
9325	6793	Hoechst	9250	+46	...	7.5	...
1381	845	ICI	1273	+14	55.0	5.8	20.3
631	435	Laporte	551 †	+ 2	...	4.6	13.9
351	234	Leigh	270	+ 7	7.6	3.8	16.2
290	21	MTM	33	+ 5	5.1	20.6	1.9
1818	1162	Norsk Hydro	1362	-34	...	2.3	∞
400	312	Paterson Zoch	390	...	10.4	3.6	11.9
395	308	-do- 'A'	380	...	10.4	3.6	11.6
268	111	Plysu	235	+ 1	4.5	2.6	18.8
138½	70½	Porvair	135	...	...	3.3	13.0
417	203	Rentokil	356	+14	...	1.6	22.8
17	4½	Sutcliffe Speak	6½	...	...	...	...
376	204	Wardle Storeys	376	+12	16.0	5.7	16.3
20	9	Wentworth♦	9	...	0.1	1.5	...
320	215	Wolstnhlme R	295 †	...	16.3	7.4	∞
326	163½	Yorks Chem	294 ‡	...	...	3.3	15.2
242	89	Yule Catto	219	...	4.7	2.9	14.4

DRAPERY, STORES

ELECTRICALS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
84	35	Magnetic Mtls♦	52	+ 1	3.0	...	33.9
376	193	Memec-Sw♦	376	+ 3	7.3	2.6	15.2
203	116	Microfilm Rep	169	- 2	3.6	2.8	16.0
2378	711	Micro Focus	2013	- 2	...	...	23.1
161	93	Microlec♦	100	...	4.1	5.5	10.7
187	119	Microgen	131	...	7.0	7.1	9.9
34½	10	Microvitec♦	31½	+ ½	...	...	...
227	62	Misys	209	+ 2	5.6	3.6	12.7
107	34	Mitel	71	...	...	...	...
98	75	MMT Comp♦	83	...	3.2	5.1	13.7
120	66	Molynx	82	...	...	6.5	6.9
301	118	MTL Instr♦	300	...	3.4	1.5	18.1
101	48	Moldune Elect	84	- 1	2.0	3.2	12.3
90	45	Murray Enter	90	+ 1	...	...	...
4675	3900	NYNEX	3962	-62	...	...	...
75	40	Newmark (L)	45	...	...	...	...

BREWERIES

FINANCE, LAND

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
46	25	Norbain♦	36	...	0.7	2.6	9.1
81	37	Northamber	40	...	2.5	8.3	...
18	10	Oceonics	14½	...	...	...	13.7
279	205	Oxford Inst	229	+ 1	4.1	2.4	14.9
195	82	P-E Internl	84 †	...	6.2	9.8	∞
147	34	P & P	34	- 1	4.3	16.9	12.2
71	43	Peek	50	...	3.4	8.4	15.0
201	143	Pegasus♦	144	...	12.1	11.5	8.8
8650	6300	Philips Fn 4%	8650	...	...	0.6	...
6978	587	-do- Lupp nv	1131	-18	...	...	...
365	227	Pilco	345	...	7.7	3.0	15.6
357	194	-do- 'A' Voting	338	...	7.7	3.1	15.3
71	48	Plasmec♦	51	...	2.5	6.7	∞
111	63	Pressac	75 †	...	2.4	4.3	24.6

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1037	518	Barlow Rand	912	...	...	3.7	12.8
113	23	Barrett (H)	27	+ 3	2.0	9.9	62.4
69	32½	Baynes (Charles)	53	+ 1	1.3	3.4	14.1
149	15	Beauford	16	...	1.8	15.4	∞
48	5½	Beckenham♦	10½	...	3.0	...	2.5
30	23	Bedford (W)♦	23	...	...	...	...
525	273	Bespak	513	+ 1	...	2.3	24.2
187	106	Bibby (J)	170	...	9.7	7.6	8.6
119	80	Billam (J)	104	...	4.2	5.5	5.8
92	28	Bilston Bursca♦	35	...	...	4.2	9.2
86	37	Bimec Ind	47½	...	...	...	...
41	23	Black Arrow	23	...	2.1	12.2	7.8
5	1	Black & Edgtn♦	1	...	...	...	0.1
140	108	Black (Peter)	122	...	2.8	3.1	15.1
97	26	Bluebird Toys♦	90	...	...	...	...

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
426	262	Proudfoot Alex	365	- 4	19.5	7.4	∞
130	16½	RPS Group♦	22	+ 1	2.0	12.1	7.3
110	70	Radiant Metal	80	...	...	...	...
79	31	Ramco Oil♦	32½	...	2.0	8.2	12.1
779	548	Rank Org	688	+19	31.0	6.0	19.6
111	21	Ransomes	22	+ 1	...	...	...
741	485½	Reckitt Colm	627 †	+14	...	3.2	13.9
14½	4½	Reece	4½	...	0.1	2.8	8.5
76	34	Reed Executive	70	...	0.6	...	...
289	147	Reliance Sec♦	234	...	8.4	4.8	12.7
154	117	Relyon	137 †	- 3	4.9	4.8	∞
325	222	Renishaw	262	+ 1	6.0	3.1	17.9
78	46	Renold	59	...	3.7	...	14.3
25	8	Ressaminster♦	8	...	...	...	...
1226	673	Reuters	1085	-20	17.0	2.1	20.7

ELECTRICITY

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

OILS, GAS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
18	11½	Aberdeen Pet♦	15	- 1	...	...	15.3
40	11½	Aran Energy	12	...	...	...	...
39	13½	Ats Oil & Gas	38½	...	...	...	...
400	160	Aviva Pet	160	- 1	...	...	16.0
12	5	Blyvoor	6	...	...	...	...
235	105	Br Borneo	107	- 1	7.1	8.8	∞
204½	216	British Gas	250	+ 3	...	7.3	8.9
361	239	Br Petroleum	248	+ 2½	16.8	9.0	37.7
310	165	Presidio	165	...	...	3.4	...
443	313	Ranger	408	...	...	1.2	...
4912	3731	Royal Dtch Fl	4575	+134	...	5.5	∞
4262	2937	Schlumberger	3225	...	...	2.1	...
546	419	Shell	461	+ 7	20.9	6.0	∞

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1991/2 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
99	91	Treas 3% 1992	99	...	3.03	8.49
99	95	Treas 8% 1992	99	...	8.02	...
100	98	Treas 10½% 1992	100 †	...	10.50	...
102	100	Exch 12¼% 1992	100	+	12.17	10.41
104	101	Exch 13½% 1992	101	+	13.33	10.41
96	89	Fund 6% 1993	95	+	6.30	9.60
98	94	Treas 8¼% 1993	98	+	8.39	10.14
100	97	Treas 10% 1993	99	+	10.03	10.27
104	101	Treas 12½% 1993	102	+	12.21	10.39
108	104	Treas 13¾% 1993	104	+	13.10	10.30
98	92	Treas 8½% 1994	97	+	8.73	10.07
99	93	Treas 9% 1994	97	+	9.24	10.11
101	96	Treas 10% 1994	99	+	10.04	10.13
107	103	Exch 12½% 1994	104	+	11.95	10.21
109	105	Exch 13½% 1994	105 †	+	12.75	10.20
111	106	Treas 14½% 1994	107	+	13.55	10.27
89	82	Gas 3% 1990-95	89 †	...	3.37	7.06
102	96	Exch 10¼% 1995	100	+	10.22	10.13
106	102	Treas 12% 1995	104	+	11.51	10.15
110	105	Treas 12¾% 1995	107 †	+	11.85	10.16

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1991/2 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
100	92	Treas 9% 1992-96	97	+	9.25	9.82
102	95	Conv 10% 1996	99	+	10.03	10.04
112	108	Exch 13¼% 1996	109 †	+	12.09	10.28
114	109	Treas 14% 1996	111	+	12.59	10.31
119	114	Treas 15¼% 1996	115 †	+	13.17	10.36
97	89	Treas 8¾% 1997	95	+	9.19	9.88
104	97	Exch 10½% 1997	101	+	10.31	9.98
114	108	Treas 13¼% 1997	111	+	11.92	10.20
123	117	Exch 15% 1997	119 †	+	12.56	10.29
90	80	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	88 †	+	7.64	9.26
101	93	Exch 9¾% 1998	99	+	9.85	9.94
112	104	Exch 12% 1998	109	+	11.00	10.03
129	121	Treas 15½% 1998	124	+	12.42	10.13
101	92	Treas 9½% 1999	98	+	9.65	9.77
104	95	Conv 10¼% 1999	101	+	10.09	9.912
105	97	Treas 10½% 1999	102	+	10.22	9.912
114	105	Exch 12¼% 1999	110	+	11.06	10.02
99	89	Conv 9% 2000	95	+	9.39	9.72
119	110	Treas 13% 2000	115	+	11.22	10.08
104	94	Treas 10% 2001	101	+	9.90	9.78
120	113	Treas 14% 1998-01	116	+	12.02	10.26
103	92	Treas 9¾% 2002	99	+	9.77	9.74
105	94	Treas 10% 2003	101	+	9.83	9.71
63	53	Fund 3½% 1999-04	60	+	5.75	8.72
102	90	Conv 9½% 2004	98 †	+	9.64	9.66
112	102	Treas 11½% 2001-04	108	+	10.60	10.00
102	90	Conv 9½% 2005	98	+	9.62	9.64
122	111	Treas 12½% 2003-05	118	+	10.58	9.80

LONGS (over 15 years)

1991/2 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
90	79	Treas 8% 2002-06	87	+	9.18	9.64
95	84	Treas 8½% 2007	91	+	9.30	9.55
116	105	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	112	+	10.45	9.80
99	88	Treas 9% 2008	95 †	+	9.42	9.52
130	118	Treas 13½% 2004-08	125	+	10.77	9.80
90	80	Treas 8% 2009	87	+	9.19	9.51
99	88	Conv 9% 2011	95	+	9.44	9.50
67	58	Treas 5½% 2008-12	64	+	8.56	9.47
87	76	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	83	+	9.30	9.54
127	113	Exch 12% 2013-17	122	+	9.83	9.54

UNDATED

1991/2 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
26	23	Consols 2½%	25	+	9.82	
26	23	Treas 2½%	25	+	9.93	...
31	28	Treas 3%	30	+	9.94	...
61	57	Conv 3½%	59	+	5.86	
42	37	Consols 4%	40	+	9.88	...
38	33	War Ln 3½%	36	+	9.66	...

INDEX-LINKED

1991/2 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
124	115	Treas IL 2% 1994	124 †	..	2.63	3.81
181	168	Treas IL 2% 1996	180	..	3.30	3.88
147	137	Treas IL 2½% 2001	144	+	4.11	4.42
142	133	Treas IL 2½% 2003	139	+	4.24	4.50
144	135	Treas IL 2% 2006	139	+	4.37	4.58
131	124	Treas IL 2½% 2009	126	+	4.42	4.61
135	128	Treas IL 2½% 2011	130	+	4.42	4.60
111	105	Treas IL 2½% 2013	106	+	4.42	4.58
118	112	Treas IL 2½% 2016	113	+	4.41	4.57
113	107	Treas IL 2½% 2020	108 †	+	4.41	4.55
95	88	Treas IL 2½% 2024	89	+	4.40	4.52

Portfolio PLATINUM

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1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
5	2	Target Res	2½	...	...	...	...
34	11	Tencel♦	11	- 1	...	...	7.0
114	28	Triton Europe	31	...	...	...	...
197	102	Wandsale	158	- 2	...	1.4	45.0
7	1½	XCL Sunrise	2½	...	...	...	...

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

SHOES, LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRANSPORT

WATER

Source: Finstat

♦ USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; † Ex rights issue; § Ex all; ¶ Ex capital distributions; ∞ Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data.

Low-cost franchises come into fashion

By Derek Harris

DIFFICULTIES with franchisee recruitment are stimulating a new trend — for more modest and cheaper franchises. The result of franchise format owners — the franchisors — exploring ways of easing entry will be a feature of the spring franchise exhibition running at London's Olympia exhibition hall for three days from Friday, April 24.

John Sheppard, franchise manager at National Westminster Bank, expects its annual analysis, due soon, to show a noticeable decline in franchisee recruitment. He blames the economic climate, particularly the property market, since many prospective franchisees would normally look to raising cash for their prospective business by pulling some of the value from their homes.

Mr Sheppard said that present conditions tend to favour the cheaper franchises, but, in the past, these have been largely one-man mobile services. They appeal most to the younger person, yet many of those with redundancy cash are middle aged and less interested in being on the road.

David Watts, the marketing director of In Toto, a franchise chain of 44 showrooms offering a fitted kitchen service, said: "At one time it was hard to find the right property for an outlet, but easy to get franchisees. Now it's just the opposite." To make entry easier, In Toto, which is based in Yorkshire, is offering a turnkey operation, finding a showroom, fitting it out and, in several cases, running it so that a prospective franchisee can see how it performs. Nine turnkeys are available with a £50,000 initial investment. Colour Counsellors, the interior design chain, is introducing a "mini" franchise option covering smaller areas. It brings the start-up cost down, in some cases, to £4,000 against £10,000 for a normal franchise. Leadstyle is another franchisor with a lower cost option.

MR FRIDAY

"Well, that's election fever out of the way — now back to trying to cure depression"

Turning recession to advantage

By Rodney Hobson

THE West Midlands company that Frank Griffiths and Derek Watson worked for went bust. So they turned up when the assets were being auctioned off and bought a piece of machinery weighing 100 tons. Mr Griffiths, aged 52, and Mr Watson, 46, had been in brass stamping all their lives. They had twice worked together in two different companies, using dies to make components for industry and Mr Griffiths, who started on the shop floor at the age of 16, had worked his way up to management.

Their employers ceased trading in February last year and the pair realised that age was against them. However, they felt that the recession presented opportunities, particularly as machinery could be acquired cheaply. They paid £950 for a stamping machine from their former employers. It would have cost £20,000 new.

Mr Griffiths says: "It was an old one, but it was what we could afford at the time. Certainly, it has earned its cost 20 times over." It was July before they were able to set up their own company, Penzer Stamping. After three months of searching for premises, they rented a spare corner from a friendly firm in Birmingham. That has had the advantage of keeping overheads down.

Birmingham Venture, an agency aiding start-ups, helped them to get an enterprise allowance of £40 a week for the first year. They found that the recession has increased the use of sub-contractors in many industries. Mr Griffiths and Mr Watson, with their wealth of experience, knew where to look for customers. Three competitors with heavy overheads have gone into liquidation since they started. Their clients range from the makers of curtain hooks and fittings to those providing parts for Tornado aircraft. Leyland DAF and Lucas are among the well-known customers who buy their products.

Even in the cramped conditions they have bought and set up a second stamping machine. It also cost £950, but this time weighed 150 tons. They have bought a cutting machine for £150.

Materials also ate up cash and tooling has cost £20,000 so far, but turnover is £10,000 a month and the £6,000 redundancy money that Mr Griffiths and Mr Watson started with remains intact. All the bills have been paid. Penzer Stamping hopes to be in its own building within 12 months of start-up.

Mr Griffiths says: "We have turned a lot of work away because we did not have the machinery to do it. A few weeks ago I could have bought a press, but we have no room for it."

JOHN POTTER

Stamping ground: Derek Watson (left) and Frank Griffiths with their two main presses

BRIEFINGS

A series of six training workshops, for directors of small businesses with up to about 20 employees, will be mounted by the Institute of Directors in May and June. Subjects include generating new business, managing your team, personal effectiveness, retaining customers, controlling finance and turning plans into action. Each workshop costs £110 to members, £125 to non-members, both plus VAT. One series will be at Cranford, Middlesex, and one at Crawley, West Sussex.

☐ A booklet on practical cash management for small and medium-sized businesses has been produced jointly by Grant Thornton, the accountant, and Kall Kwik, the print, copy and design chain. *Cash Management* is available free from any of Grant Thornton's 40 offices or Kall Kwik's 200 branches around the country.

☐ Telephone and computer banking services are becoming more popular with small businesses, according to National Westminster Bank, which says that last year saw a near 150 per cent rise in signings by small firms for its telephone banking service. Computer banking saw a 65 per cent rise among small businesses.

☐ Greater London Enterprise has raised £3 million for its latest venture fund to invest in small businesses in the capital. Its subsidiary, GLE Development Capital, now has £9.4 million under management.

Edited by Derek Harris

Bulldog buckles down to success

By Simon Walsh

AFTER leaving the Kent Institute of Art and Technology, Simon Lane quickly found his niche as a busy freelance model-maker, creating the special effects for advertising agencies. However, after 18 months of four-foot tomatoes, exploding toffee and putting the gripping stuff into Pirelli tyre commercials, he found that he was not entirely satisfied. Today, three years on, he has his own business, is providing employment for others and is setting his sights still higher.

Beginning with an annual turnover of £33,000 and a 14 ft sq unit in a shopping centre, the Bulldog Buckle Company now has premises in Taunton High Street, Somerset, an annual turnover approaching £250,000 and serious intentions for an international market.

Simon said: "Working on a freelance basis you get to a level where jobs are coming in and going out and you feel you want more, but I could see no further scope for development in what I was doing. So I decided that I wanted to start my own business. I felt that in doing so I would eventually earn more and achieve greater job satisfaction."

Simon's brother, Graham, had been made redundant from an American engineering company, so he had a partner with an engineering background.

The only question was deciding what this new business was to be. The solution came in the form of another problem, as Simon explains.

He said: "I had bought three new pairs of trousers and had spent an afternoon looking for belts to match them.

"There was nothing anywhere, so I started to think how the Sock Shop and the Tie Rack had filled gaps in the market. I thought that we could do the same for belts."

After talking to belt manufacturers and also to family and friends, the brothers each invested £5,000, topped up by an £8,000 loan from the National Westminster Bank.

Another gap in the market appeared. Customers started asking for decorative buckles to go with their belts.

Supplies from a wholesaler were American-designed and manufactured. An ex-paratrooper walked into the shop with a tattoo of a cartoon bulldog and the legend "Proud to be British" and asked for a buckle with the same design.

With the combined modelling and engineering skills of the two brothers and £100 borrowed from the belt shop, the buckle-making operation was in progress.

Simon said: "The first buckles we made went to wholesalers selling us American buckles. Seven out of eight placed reasonably big orders, so within a few months we had recouped our initial outlay with some capital to spare."

Advertisements in armed forces magazines drew a favourable response and so did those in motorcycle magazines.

In the meantime, Simon and Graham kept listening to their customers.

People wanted fantasy themes, so they turned out a range of dragon buckles. The designs translated into jewellry in the form of dragon pendants, ear-rings and broaches. Companies and clubs decided they wanted their corporate identities rendered wearable in hand-crafted pewter.

The Lane brothers approached Queen, the rock group, who agreed to have badges made. The death of Freddy Mercury, the lead singer, boosted sales. They have negotiated the right to sell their Queen badges direct to the public and this they intend to do internationally.

They are also recruiting more agents, some full-time sales staff, designers and a marketing manager.

Simon says: "It's going to take a while to get established in the market, but one day I want to be number one, because as far as I'm concerned that's the only place to be."

Bulldog breed: Simon Lane aims to be number one in the market

Rescheduling of debts needs caution to avoid hidden costs

By Rodney Hobson

REFINANCING business debts to cut costs rarely produces the benefits expected, according to Milbourne, the commercial finance broker based in New Malden, Surrey.

Milbourne reached its conclusion after interviewing a range of banks and other lenders and studying the cases of business proprietors who had refinanced.

Nigel Risner, Milbourne chief executive, says: "For years we have been advising caution in refinancing to reduce monthly outgoings because we suspected the benefits were much more limited than many advisers were suggesting. Our research has confirmed this to be so, to an even greater extent than we realised." He says refinancing remained an attractive proposition for expanding a business, but was highly questionable as a measure to reduce finance costs on an existing commitment.

The research produced three main reasons why promised savings failed to appear. Setting up refinance proved unexpectedly expensive, with surveys and legal costs to pay. Lenders often imposed additional costs such as redemption fees and new life assurance cover. Borrowers failed to realise how long it would take — perhaps two or three years — for any reduced interest rates to pay for the hidden costs.

Mr Risner says: "It may seem odd for a broker to put people off a lucrative source of fee income for us. Refinancing is not always a bad idea but there are often far better ways of reducing costs and in view of our research findings these alternatives are even more attractive. People thinking of buying, expanding or refinancing a business can be obsessed with the interest rates on the loan."

Possible alternatives include reviewing insurance cover, including the proprietor's life cover. Strong businesses may be able to negotiate cuts in the interest rate on the existing loan, especially if they can threaten to take business to another bank. Mr Risner says: "Banks are very reluctant to lose good customers so it is a pity to throw away the opportunities which this presents."

Putting redundancy money to work

DISMISSED workers should not grab their redundancy cheques and rush straight into setting up their own businesses, according to advice given by National Westminster Bank (Rodney Hobson writes).

More than 50,000 businesses were started in 1991 by people who had been made redundant. Jane Bradford, head of the bank's small business services, says: "It is vital that people made redundant and thinking of setting up their own businesses do not do so on the rebound."

She says that budding entrepreneurs should not be deceived by what might seem like a large amount of money when they receive a freshly signed cheque. When it is put into a business venture it can disappear quickly.

She adds: "Do not put all your money into the business. Split it so you have some in reserve for emergencies and invest it to earn the maximum guaranteed return available while ensuring that you retain easy access to the money."

Entrepreneurs should research the viability of the business. If there is no market for the product it cannot succeed.

Mrs Bradford says new businesses should make the best use of loans, grants and bursaries for which they are eligible. Enterprise agencies, training and enterprise councils and banks keep up-to-date information on national and local help available.

The Siberian athlete who dreads the chill hand of the taxman and the federation begging bowl

Tolstikov budgets for further success

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

TODAY most taxpayers working in Britain will know where they stand. Not Yakov Tolstikov, who is here temporarily from the Siberian mining town of Kemerovo to boost his income and defend his ADT London Marathon title on Sunday. Last year's victory cost him £4,000 in tax and a compulsory donation of £17,000 to the Soviet federation.

How much of his earnings on Sunday will be taxed? "I don't know," he said yesterday. "We have been paying 20 per cent but I have not been home for two weeks. It changes all the time."

Tolstikov was left with only £12,500 for his impressive morning's work a year ago, when he broke away at 14 miles to win by more than a minute. A year is a long time in politics, especially where Tolstikov comes from.

Last April he was running for the Soviet Union, on Sunday it will be for the unified team; in those days he was told where to train, now he trains where he likes, more or less: in last year's marathon he was ordered to camouflage his shoes to conceal the brand he was wearing but yesterday national team officials were negotiating an individual deal with a shoe company on his behalf outside the team arrangement. And this time they will take less than the 50 per cent of his race earnings which they took last year.

The break-up of the Soviet Union has even transformed its runners' Olympic marathon trial. London, not somewhere in the former Soviet Union, is where performances count for Barcelona.

Though Tolstikov has been selected already, the other two places will go to those who show up best here on Sunday. It is a limited guest list though: only two of the states are represented: Russia and Ukraine. "The strongest marathon runners were always from Russia and Ukraine," Tolstikov said.

"It is difficult to find a place to hold a trial because its difficult to find neutral territory," Tolstikov said. "And being here to compete against the best athletes is a lot better." And money to the federation which needs it more than ever before.

Two months training in Florida, then fine-tuning in Brighton for the last fortnight, has been a pleasant change. He used to complain of "no freedom for normal training" while his coach, Victor Fomin, objected to "being ordered to attend a series of training camps". Brighton seemed more like a holiday camp, staying in a seafront guest house with no trouble finding food, as there is at home.

"Politically we are free but from an economic point of view it has got tougher," he said. "But to leave your home is a big step." At the age of 32, he may not have many paydays left, so he has been working on his security. After dropping out of the world championships in Tokyo, he used his drawing power as the London Marathon champion to earn well from commercial marathons in Carpi, Italy, and Fukuoka.

As in Tokyo, he ran well in neither: he was eleventh in Carpi and ninth in Fukuoka. He needs a victory to keep up his market value. If not here then at the Olympics. Anyway, he has something to prove in Barcelona.

Four years ago he won the Soviet national championship but was not selected for Seoul. And he is suspicious that he was said to have failed a drugs test in 1985 because the federation did not want him in its team for the World Cup. He wants to show that, freed of his chains, he can make a mark at Olympic level. Tolstikov's London title will come under siege from the Mexicans, among others. Half a dozen are here and, according to their manager, Luis Posso, any one of them could run under 2hr 10min. Mexican distance running is booming and the three who go to the Olympics will have earned their places.

The three fastest times of the season will clinch the places and, after the Rotterdam and Beppu marathons, the Mexicans here are left with a target of 2:09.28 to get in the team. The most likely contenders are Maurilio Castillo and Marcelino Chrisanto with the latter apparently the one making noises. "In Chicago in 1990 in his first marathon he got to halfway in 63min 53sec," Posso said. "Now he thinks he can go at that pace to the finish."

JOHN MANNING

Frontrunner: Tolstikov training on the beach at Brighton before defending his London Marathon title

Frei leads the wheelchair chase

BY ALIX RAMSAY

THERE will be a new wheelchair champion in the ADT London Marathon on Sunday. Last year's winner, Farid Amarouch, of France, has not returned to defend his title.

There is a strong overseas entry led by the holder of the world best time, Heinz Frei, of Switzerland. He set his record in Assen at the World Games two years ago, recording 1hr 27min 05sec, but will not repeat that feat on Sunday on the notoriously slow, winding London course.

Chasing him will be the Swedish pair, Bo Lindkvist and Hakan Ericsson, the London winner in 1990. There is little to separate these two, Lindkvist being faster by one second with a personal best time of 1:32:20.

The large British contingent in the 63-strong field is headed by David Holding, from Kettering. He last won the race in 1989 but, as he is the first to admit, the overseas competitors were not as strong then.

Since winning he has been struck by bad luck, pulling out ten miles into the race with hypothermia in the rain-drenched 1990 event, and just losing touch with the leaders in the closing stages last year.

"I was with them all the way until we hit the cobblestones," he said. "They are terrible. They slow you down and the carpet they lay over the top doesn't help, it rucks up and drags under the wheels. The top pack opened up a gap on me there and I finished sixth."

In theory the London course should favour the likes of Holding, aged 23, men with a good sprint finish, but he says: "It's a slow race because it's a hard course and often you haven't got anything left at the end."

While his best time is 1:37:21, that was recorded two years ago in Assen where the roads were good and the straights long. He is looking to equal last year's achievements and finish in the top six.

The women's race fields only five competitors, all from Britain. Rose Hill, the British road-racing grand prix champion from Milton Keynes, is the favourite. Her best time of 2:12:14 may be well off the men's record but in one battle of the sexes the London Marathon has a female winner. Yvonne and Barry Holloway will both be in action, with Yvonne streets ahead of Barry on paper, with a personal best time 45 minutes faster than her husband.

EQUESTRIANISM

Stark choice may be swayed by cool temperament

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

IAN Stark, the European three-day event champion, will give his two Olympic contenders, Murphy Himself and Glen Burnie, their first competition of the season at the Pedigree Chum Belton Horse Trials in Lincolnshire, starting today. It will be Glen Burnie's first outing since winning the European championships at Punchestown in Ireland last September.

Belton, a traditional pre-Badminton outing, has attracted a quality field. The numbers have been swelled by the large contingent of foreign riders who are using British facilities to prepare for the Olympics. Fifteen countries are represented, including Spain, Korea, Japan, South Africa, Australia and Canada.

The British entry includes Virginia Leng, the former world and European champion, with Master Craftsman and Welton Houdini, Richard Walker, with Jacana, and Mary Thomson, with King William, all members of the gold medal-winning team at Punchestown. Lorna Clarke, with Fearliath Mor, and Rodney Powell, winner of Badminton last year, are also in the field.

Although Stark has been excused Badminton by the selectors and is automatically shortlisted for the Olympics he is still intending to ride there with one of his two famous greys. It is most likely to be Glen Burnie, the horse he may also ride in Barcelona. "There is little to choose between them." Stark, who was runner-up at Badminton on Murphy Himself last year, said, "but Glen Burnie is probably better at coping with the heat."

If he does ride the 14-year-old son of Precipice Wood at Badminton, Stark will be trying to win. "There is no point in going to Badminton just to hack round," he said.

New Zealand's dual Olympic champion, Mark Todd, heads the foreign entry. The former dairy farmer, aged 37, has just returned from competing in France with his Olympic show jumping contender, Kleenex Double Take.

The trials, for which the going is reported to be perfect, begin with today's dressage.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Videos should raise profile of athletes

BY ALIX RAMSAY

WHAT started out as a finals project for a degree in design and media management was launched this week as a promotional campaign to raise the profile of paralympic athletes on their way to the summer Games.

The six five-minute videos feature some of Britain's best medal prospects, showing them training, competing and discussing themselves and their ambitions. They were made by Theresa Cross and Christina Clayton, both students at the Polytechnic of West London.

"The problem of their disability wasn't even approached unless it was mentioned by the athletes themselves," Clayton said. "When we filmed them we filmed them as able-bodied athletes in that we were filming the sport and not the disability."

Simon Jackson, aged 19, the world judo champion and one of the athletes featured, is pleased with the end result. "The films portray us as good athletes for a change," he said. "They didn't plaster all over it that I was partially sighted.

Now it is up to television to change its mind about disabled athletes and show the videos."

FIXTURES FOR THE 1992 CRICKET SEASON

April

13-FIRST-CLASS MATCH (four days)
Lord's: England A v Essex
14-FIRST-CLASS MATCHES (three days)
Fenner's: Cambridge University v Leicestershire
The Parks: Oxford University v Durham
17-FIRST-CLASS MATCHES (three days)
Fenner's: Cambridge University v Middlesex
The Parks: Oxford University v Worcestershire
19-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Essex
Durham University: Durham v Lancashire
Southampton: Hampshire v Gloucestershire
Canterbury: Kent v Somerset
Leicester: Leicestershire v Middlesex
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Sussex
The Oval: Surrey v Northamptonshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Glamorgan
Worcester: Worcestershire v Yorkshire
21-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Cheltenham (Dowty Arle Court) Gloucestershire v Leicestershire
Lord's, Middlesex v Minor Counties
Hove: Sussex v Surrey
Chelmsford: Essex v Lancashire
Forfar: Scotland v Northamptonshire
Canterbury: Kent v Somerset
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Yorkshire
Durham University: Durham v Glamorgan
Worcester: Worcestershire v Derbyshire
OTHER MATCH (four days)
Headingley: Yorkshire II v England Under-19
23-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Cheltenham (Dowty Arle Court) Gloucestershire v Minor Counties
Leicester: Leicestershire v Sussex
The Oval: Surrey v Middlesex
Southampton: Hampshire v Essex
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Scotland
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Kent
Taunton: Somerset v Yorkshire
Derby: Derbyshire v Glamorgan
The Parks: Combined Universities v Worcestershire
25-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (four days)
Durham University: Durham v Leicestershire
Southampton: Hampshire v Sussex
*Old Trafford: Lancashire v Kent
Lord's: Middlesex v Glamorgan
*Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire
*Taunton: Somerset v Gloucestershire
The Oval: Surrey v Yorkshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Northamptonshire
OTHER MATCH (three days)
Fenner's: Cambridge University v Essex
26-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Gateshead Fell: Durham v Leicestershire
Chelmsford: Essex v Surrey
Lord's: Middlesex v Glamorgan
Hove: Sussex v Yorkshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Northamptonshire
30-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Leicester: Leicestershire v Surrey
Lord's: Middlesex v Gloucestershire
Marlow: Minor Counties v Sussex
Chelmsford: Essex v Scotland
Southampton: Hampshire v Northamptonshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Kent
Derby: Derbyshire v Combined Universities
Worcester: Worcestershire v Durham

May

2-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Leicester: Leicestershire v Middlesex
The Oval: Surrey v Minor Counties
Hove: Sussex v Gloucestershire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Hampshire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Essex
Taunton: Somerset v Warwickshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire
Fenner's: Combined Universities v Durham
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Worcestershire
3-TOUR MATCH (one day)
Arundel: Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XI v Pakistanis
SUNDAY LEAGUE
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Worcestershire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Hampshire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Essex
Lord's: Middlesex v Gloucestershire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Kent
Taunton: Somerset v Warwickshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire
4-TOUR MATCH (one day)
Canterbury: Kent v Pakistanis
5-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Stone: Minor Counties v Leicestershire
The Oval: Surrey v Gloucestershire
Hove: Sussex v Middlesex
Glasgow (Hamilton Crescent): Scotland v Hampshire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire
Canterbury: Kent v Warwickshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Somerset
Jesmond: Durham v Derbyshire
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Combined Universities
6-TOUR MATCH (three days)
Worcester: Worcestershire v Pakistanis
7-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (four days)
Chelmsford: Essex v Leicestershire
Canterbury: Kent v Durham
*Lord's: Middlesex v Lancashire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Surrey
Hove: Sussex v Somerset
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Derbyshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Hampshire
OTHER MATCH (three days)
The Parks: Oxford University v Nottinghamshire
9-TOUR MATCH (three days)
*Cardiff: Glamorgan v Pakistanis
10-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Gloucestershire
Chelmsford: Essex v Northamptonshire
Canterbury: Kent v Durham
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Surrey
Hove: Sussex v Somerset
Worcester: Worcestershire v Warwickshire
12-FIRST-CLASS MATCHES (three days)
Fenner's: Cambridge University v Warwickshire
The Parks: Oxford University v Middlesex
13-TOUR MATCH (three days)
Taunton: Somerset v Pakistanis
14-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (four days)
Derby: Derbyshire v Worcestershire
Chelmsford: Essex v Kent
*Cardiff: Glamorgan v Durham
Leicester: Leicestershire v Lancashire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Nottinghamshire
*Headingley: Yorkshire v Gloucestershire
15-FIRST-CLASS MATCHES (three days)
Fenner's: Cambridge University v Surrey
The Parks: Oxford University v Hampshire
16-TOUR MATCH (one day)
Hove: Sussex v Pakistanis
17-TOUR MATCH (one day)
Hove: Sussex v Pakistanis
SUNDAY LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Worcestershire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Middlesex
Taunton: Somerset v Hampshire
The Oval: Surrey v Kent
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Leicestershire
19-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (four days)
Gloucester: Gloucestershire v Worcestershire
Southampton: Hampshire v Surrey
Leicester: Leicestershire v Middlesex
20-TEXACO TROPHY
LORD'S: ENGLAND v PAKISTAN (first one-day international)
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Swansea: Glamorgan v Warwickshire
Canterbury: Kent v Yorkshire
Blackpool: Lancashire v Derbyshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Sussex
Taunton: Somerset v Essex
22-TEXACO TROPHY
THE OVAL: ENGLAND v PAKISTAN (second one-day international)
23-TOUR MATCH (three days)
*Leicester: Leicestershire v Pakistanis
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Derby: Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire
Stockton: Durham v Northamptonshire
Gloucester: Gloucestershire v Somerset
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Hampshire
Lord's: Middlesex v Surrey
Hove: Sussex v Kent
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Worcestershire
24-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire
Stockton: Durham v Northamptonshire
Chelmsford: Essex v Glamorgan
Canterbury: Kent v Middlesex
The Oval: Surrey v Sussex
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Lancashire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Hampshire
27-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Quarter-finals
TOUR MATCH (two days)
Luton: England Amateur XI v Pakistanis
29-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Swansea: Glamorgan v Leicestershire
Southampton: Hampshire v Durham
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Somerset
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Derbyshire
The Oval: Surrey v Sussex
Worcester: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire
OTHER MATCH (three days)
The Parks: Oxford University v Yorkshire
30-TOUR MATCH (three days)
*Lord's: Middlesex v Pakistanis
31-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Swansea: Glamorgan v Leicestershire
Southampton: Hampshire v Durham
Canterbury: Kent v Yorkshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Somerset
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Derbyshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Gloucestershire
Hove: Sussex v Warwickshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Essex

June

2-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Darlington: Durham v Somerset
Chelmsford: Essex v Glamorgan
Basingstoke: Hampshire v Yorkshire
Tunbridge Wells: Kent v Worcestershire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Leicestershire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Middlesex
The Oval: Surrey v Derbyshire
Hove: Sussex v Warwickshire
4-FIRST CORNHILL TEST MATCH (five days)
*EDGBASTON: ENGLAND v PAKISTAN
5-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Durham
Tunbridge Wells: Kent v Essex
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Gloucestershire
Lord's: Middlesex v Leicestershire
Middlesbrough: Yorkshire v Somerset
7-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Durham
Chelmsford: Essex v Kent
Basingstoke: Hampshire v Surrey
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Gloucestershire
Lord's: Middlesex v Warwickshire
Hove: Sussex v Glamorgan
Middlesbrough: Yorkshire v Somerset
9-TILCON TROPHY
Harrogate (three days)
11-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
Semi-finals
TOUR MATCH (three days)
Trent Bridge or Canterbury: Nottinghamshire or Kent v Pakistanis
12-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Hartlepool: Durham v Essex
Colwyn Bay: Glamorgan v Lancashire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Sussex
The Oval: Surrey v Worcestershire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Hampshire
Harrogate: Yorkshire v Derbyshire
13-TOUR MATCH (three days)
*Northampton: Northamptonshire v Pakistanis
14-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Hartlepool: Durham v Essex
Colwyn Bay: Glamorgan v Lancashire
Swindon: Gloucestershire v Kent
Leicester: Leicestershire v Sussex
Bath: Somerset v Nottinghamshire
The Oval: Surrey v Worcestershire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Hampshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Derbyshire
16-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Kent
Leicester: Leicestershire v Hampshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire
Bath: Somerset v Northamptonshire
Coventry and North Warwicks: Warwickshire v Middlesex
Worcester: Worcestershire v Glamorgan
Headingley: Yorkshire v Essex
OTHER MATCH (three days)
Fenner's: Cambridge University v Derbyshire
18-SECOND CORNHILL TEST MATCH (five days)
*LORD'S: ENGLAND v PAKISTAN
19-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire
Bournemouth: Hampshire v Essex
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Middlesex
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Northamptonshire
Bath: Somerset v Surrey
Horsham: Sussex v Durham
Worcester: Worcestershire v Yorkshire
OTHER MATCHES (three days)
*Fenner's: Cambridge University v Kent
The Parks: Oxford University v Glamorgan
20-FIRST-CLASS MATCH (three days)
*Dundee (Broughty Ferry): Scotland v Ireland
21-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Middlesex
Ebbw Vale: Glamorgan v Yorkshire
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire
Bournemouth: Hampshire v Essex
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Leicestershire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Northamptonshire
Bath: Somerset v Surrey
Horsham: Sussex v Durham
24-NATWEST TROPHY, first round
Beaconsfield: Buckinghamshire v Sussex
Derby: Derbyshire v Berkshire
Chelmsford: Essex v Cumberland
Swansea: Glamorgan v Surrey
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Cheshire
Southampton: Hampshire v Dorset
Dublin (Castle Avenue): Ireland v Durham
Canterbury: Kent v Devon
Leicester: Leicestershire v Norfolk
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Cambridgeshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire
Oxford (Christ Church): Oxfordshire v Lancashire
Telford (St Georges): Shropshire v Middlesex
Taunton: Somerset v Scotland
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Staffordshire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Northumberland
TOUR MATCH (three days)
Fenner's: Oxford and Cambridge Universities v Pakistanis
26-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Derby: Derbyshire v Warwickshire
Ilford: Essex v Lancashire
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Surrey
Lord's: Middlesex v Somerset
Luton: Northamptonshire v Glamorgan
Worcester: Worcestershire v Sussex
27-TOUR MATCH (three days)
*Southampton: Hampshire v Pakistanis
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
*Gateshead Fell: Durham v Kent
OTHER MATCH (three days)
*Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Cambridge University
28-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Derby: Derbyshire v Leicestershire
Ilford: Essex v Lancashire
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Surrey
Lord's: Middlesex v Somerset
Luton: Northamptonshire v Glamorgan
Worcester: Worcestershire v Sussex
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Warwickshire
30-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Derby: Derbyshire v Gloucestershire
Ilford: Essex v Middlesex
Maidstone: Kent v Nottinghamshire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Worcestershire
The Oval: Surrey v Northamptonshire
Arundel: Sussex v Hampshire
UNIVERSITY MATCH (three days)
Lord's: Oxford v Cambridge

July

2-THIRD CORNHILL TEST MATCH (five days)
OLD TRAFFORD: ENGLAND v PAKISTAN
3-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Stockton: Durham v Gloucestershire
Neath: Glamorgan v Surrey
Southampton: Hampshire v Nottinghamshire
Maidstone: Kent v Lancashire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Sussex
Taunton: Somerset v Derbyshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Essex
Sheffield (Abbeydale Park): Yorkshire v Leicestershire
5-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Stockton: Durham v Gloucestershire
Llanelli: Glamorgan v Surrey
Southampton: Hampshire v Nottinghamshire
Maidstone: Kent v Lancashire
Lord's: Middlesex v Worcestershire
Tring: Northamptonshire v Sussex
Taunton: Somerset v Derbyshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Essex
Sheffield (Abbeydale Park): Yorkshire v Leicestershire
9-NATWEST TROPHY, second round
Derby or Finchampstead: Derbyshire or Berkshire v Leicestershire or Norfolk
Chelmsford or Netherfield: Essex or Cumberland v Oxfordshire or Lancashire
Southampton or Bournemouth: Hampshire or Dorset v Kent or Devon
Northampton or March: Northamptonshire or Cambridgeshire v Yorkshire or Northumberland
Trent Bridge or Worcester: Nottinghamshire or Worcestershire v Glamorgan or Surrey
Telford or Uxbridge: Shropshire or Middlesex v Ireland or Durham
Taunton or Glasgow: Somerset or Scotland v Gloucestershire or Cheshire
Edgbaston or Stone: Warwickshire or Staffordshire v Buckinghamshire or Sussex
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Haslingden: League Cricket Conference v Pakistanis
11-BENSON AND HEDGES CUP
LORD'S: FINAL (reserve days Sunday and Monday)
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Glasgow (Titwood): Scotland v Pakistanis
12-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Moreton-in-Marsh: Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire
Canterbury: Kent v Nottinghamshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Middlesex
Leicester: Leicestershire v Worcestershire
Taunton: Somerset v Durham
The Oval: Surrey v Derbyshire
Hove: Sussex v Hampshire
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Essex
(matches involving Benson and Hedges Cup finalists to be rearranged)
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Glasgow (Titwood): Scotland v Pakistanis
14-TOUR MATCH (three days)
Chester-le-Street: Durham v Pakistanis
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Southend: Essex v Gloucestershire
Portsmouth: Hampshire v Derbyshire
Southport: Lancashire v Leicestershire
Uxbridge: Middlesex v Northamptonshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire
Guildford: Surrey v Kent
Sheffield (Abbeydale Park): Yorkshire v Warwickshire
17-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Southend: Essex v Sussex
Cheltenham College: Gloucestershire v Yorkshire
Portsmouth: Hampshire v Glamorgan
Leicester: Leicestershire v Somerset
Uxbridge: Middlesex v Worcestershire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Lancashire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Durham
Guildford: Surrey v Warwickshire
18-TOUR MATCH (three days)
*Derby: Derbyshire v Pakistanis
19-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Southend: Essex v Sussex
Cheltenham College: Gloucestershire v Yorkshire
Portsmouth: Hampshire v Glamorgan
Canterbury: Kent v Worcestershire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Somerset
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Middlesex
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Durham
The Oval: Surrey v Warwickshire
21-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Derby: Derbyshire v Middlesex
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Yorkshire
Cheltenham College: Gloucestershire v Hampshire
Canterbury: Kent v Somerset
Leicester: Leicestershire v Durham
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Warwickshire
The Oval: Surrey v Nottinghamshire
Hove: Sussex v Lancashire
Kidderminster: Worcestershire v Essex
23-FOURTH CORNHILL TEST MATCH (five days)
*HEADINGLEY: ENGLAND v PAKISTAN
24-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Abergavenny: Glamorgan v Somerset
Cheltenham College: Gloucestershire v Sussex
Leicester: Leicestershire v Essex
Lord's: Middlesex v Durham
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Derbyshire
26-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Pontypridd: Glamorgan v Derbyshire
Cheltenham College: Gloucestershire v Sussex
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Surrey
Leicester: Leicestershire v Kent
Lord's: Middlesex v Durham
Taunton: Somerset v Northamptonshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Hampshire
29-NATWEST TROPHY
Quarter-finals
TOUR MATCH (two days)
Marlow: Minor Counties v Pakistanis
FESTIVAL MATCH (one day)
Jesmond: England XI v Rest of the World XI
30-FESTIVAL MATCH (one day)
Jesmond: England XI v Rest of the World XI
31-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Durham University: Durham v Surrey
Swansea: Glamorgan v Kent
*Taunton: Somerset v Sussex
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Leicestershire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Lancashire

August

1-TOUR MATCH (three days)
*Chelmsford: Essex v Pakistanis
2-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Leek: Derbyshire v Warwickshire
Durham University: Durham v Surrey
Swansea: Glamorgan v Kent
Southampton: Hampshire v Middlesex
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire
Worcester: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire
Headingley: Yorkshire v Lancashire
4-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Ilkeston: Derbyshire v Leicestershire
Durham University: Durham v Yorkshire
Chelmsford: Essex v Northamptonshire
Canterbury: Kent v Middlesex
Lytham: Lancashire v Surrey
Worksop: Nottinghamshire v Gloucestershire
Taunton: Somerset v Warwickshire
Eastbourne: Sussex v Glamorgan
Worcester: Worcestershire v Hampshire
6-FIFTH CORNHILL TEST MATCH (five days)
*THE OVAL: ENGLAND v PAKISTAN
7-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Canterbury: Kent v Hampshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Worcestershire
Lord's: Middlesex v Gloucestershire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan
Eastbourne: Sussex v Derbyshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Durham
9-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Leicestershire
Canterbury: Kent v Hampshire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Worcestershire
Lord's: Middlesex v Essex
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan
Eastbourne: Sussex v Derbyshire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Durham
11-FLOODLIT TOURNAMENT (three days)
Sheffield (Don Valley Stadium). Four Counties floodlit tournament
12-NATWEST TROPHY
Semi-finals
TOUR MATCH (one day)
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Pakistanis
13-TOUR MATCH (one day)
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Pakistanis
14-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Kent
Hartlepool: Durham v Glamorgan
Colchester: Essex v Nottinghamshire
Bournemouth: Hampshire v Northamptonshire
Uxbridge: Middlesex v Yorkshire
The Oval: Surrey v Leicestershire
FIRST BULL UNDER-19 TEST MATCH (four days)
*Headingley: England v Sri Lanka
15-TOUR MATCH (three days)
*Bristol: Gloucestershire v Pakistanis
16-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Kent
Hartlepool: Durham v Glamorgan
Colchester: Essex v Nottinghamshire
Bournemouth: Hampshire v Northamptonshire
Uxbridge: Middlesex v Yorkshire
Taunton: Somerset v Worcestershire
The Oval: Surrey v Leicestershire
Hove: Sussex v Lancashire
18-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Glamorgan
Colchester: Essex v Surrey
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire
Bournemouth: Hampshire v Middlesex
Leicester: Leicestershire v Kent
Weston-super-Mare: Somerset v Worcestershire
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Lancashire
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire
20-TEXACO TROPHY
TRENT BRIDGE: ENGLAND v PAKISTAN (third one-day international)
21-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (three days)
Swansea: Glamorgan v Gloucestershire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Kent
Weston-super-Mare: Somerset v Hampshire
Hove: Sussex v Middlesex
Worcester: Worcestershire v Durham
Bradford: Yorkshire v Surrey
22-TEXACO TROPHY
LORD'S: ENGLAND v PAKISTAN (fourth one-day international)
23-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Bristol or Lydney: Gloucestershire v Glamorgan
Southampton: Hampshire v Derbyshire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Northamptonshire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire
Weston-super-Mare: Somerset v Essex
Hove: Sussex v Middlesex
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Kent
Worcester: Worcestershire v Durham
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Surrey
24-TEXACO TROPHY
OLD TRAFFORD: ENGLAND v PAKISTAN (fifth one-day international)
25-SECOND BULL UNDER-19 TEST MATCH (four days)
Taunton: England v Sri Lanka
26-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (four days)
Derby: Derbyshire v Somerset
Darlington: Durham v Hampshire
Canterbury: Kent v Gloucestershire
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Yorkshire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Middlesex
Hove: Sussex v Essex
Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Glamorgan
Worcester: Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire
FESTIVAL MATCH (three days)
Scarborough: World XI v Pakistan
29-FESTIVAL MATCH (one day)
Scarborough: World XI v Eastern Province
30-SUNDAY LEAGUE
Darlington: Durham v Yorkshire
Chelmsford: Essex v Gloucestershire
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Somerset
Canterbury: Kent v Sussex
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Derbyshire
Leicester: Leicestershire v Hampshire
Northampton: Northamptonshire v Warwickshire
The Oval: Surrey v Middlesex
Worcester: Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire
FESTIVAL MATCH (one day)
Scarborough: World XI v Eastern Province
31-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (four days)
Chelmsford: Essex v Hampshire
Cardiff: Glamorgan v Sussex
Bristol: Gloucestershire v Leicestershire
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire
The Oval: Surrey v Somerset
Worcester: Worcestershire v Warwickshire
Scarborough: Yorkshire v Northamptonshire

September

4-JOSHUA TETLEY FESTIVAL TROPHY
Scarborough (three days)
5-NATWEST TROPHY
LORD'S: FINAL (reserve days Sunday and Monday)
7-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (four days)
Derby: Derbyshire v Essex
Canterbury: Kent v Glamorgan
Old Trafford: Lancashire v Sussex
Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Surrey
Taunton: Somerset v Durham
(matches involving NatWest Trophy finalists will start on September 8)
THIRD BULL UNDER-19 TEST MATCH (four days)
Worcester: England v Sri Lanka
8-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (four days)
Lord's: Middlesex v Warwickshire
12-BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (four days)
*Gateshead Fell: Durham v Lancashire
*Cardiff: Glamorgan v Derbyshire
*Bristol: Gloucestershire v Essex
*Southampton: Hampshire v Worcestershire
*Leicester: Leicestershire v Northamptonshire
*Taunton: Somerset v Nottinghamshire
*The Oval: Surrey v Middlesex
*Hove: Sussex v Yorkshire
*Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Kent

* denotes Sunday play

Other matches at Lord's

May 6: MCC v MCC Young Cricketers
June 24: Eton v Harrow
July 14: MCC v MCC Schools
July 15: MCC Schools v NAYC
July 16: NCA Young Cricketers v Combined Services
July 17: MCC v European Cricketer Cup winners
July 19: MCC v Transvaal
July 20-21: MCC v Scotland
Aug 26: Minor Counties knockout final
Aug 29: Club championship final
Aug 30: Rothmans village championship final

Partnership built on pursuit of speed

SIMON BARNES

THE OLYMPIC CONTENDERS

There is only one team sport in the Olympics that requires a closer relationship than this one, and that is the team of horse and rider in three-day eventing. "Which one of us is the horse, then?"

Pairs rowing is the ultimate buddy-movie sport: two men attempting to fuse minds and bodies into one: to become a mechanical contrivance for victory. "No captain. Captain's been dropped." The relationship needs banter, like *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.

Steven Redgrave is going for gold again. At this early stage, Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, as the world champions, are favourites for gold in the coxless pairs, and Redgrave could become the first Briton to win gold at three successive Olympics since two water polo-players, Charles Sidney Smith and Paul Radmilovic, did it in 1908, 1912 and 1920.

Redgrave won in the coxed four in 1984, and in the coxless pair with Andy Holmes in 1988. Holmes then retired, and Redgrave needed a new partner. It is natural to banter about divorce and re-marriage, and to ask teasing questions like "when did you feel you were right for each other".

Redgrave is now 30, stately and laconic. He is married now — really married — "and I have a little kid to look after as well. I mean, other than Matthew." Pinsent, his latest Sundance, is 21, with an amiable, grinning demeanour that must have driven his teachers into a frenzy.

It is a straightforward Hollywood scenario: the seen-it-all, done-it-all ageing gun, fighting against jadedness, teams up with the jolly, smart-alec kid who is simply too fast to be kicked out of his cockiness.

The years between 21 and 30 represent an inter-stellar gap. It is easy to reach 21 with your illusions and dreams unmodified: almost impossible to reach 30 in the same state. Most 30-year-olds have known deep happiness and deep despair: most 21-year-olds only think they have.

A partnership of any kind across such a gap is by definition unusual, and it requires something unusual to hold it together. Redgrave and Pinsent have speed.

After the divorce from Holmes, Redgrave set up a trial marriage with an oarsman called Simon Beresford, but this irretrievably broke down when Beresford had a back injury. Redgrave looked around for talent, and saw it: "It seemed obvious to try a pair with Matthew."

"He had it all worked out," Pinsent said. "This was what he wanted." Pinsent, clearly had ability, technique and strength, along with massive self-confidence. If the two of them could make the boat go fast, they would work out a personal relationship on — quite literally — the strength of their joint abilities.

"There was no choice," Redgrave said. "It was that or give up. And rowing with Matthew was obvious. To see if it would work. And it did — basically from the first time we went out."

Why did Redgrave seek yet another partnership? Why did he not strike out on his own, in single sculls? "Not fast enough. Simple as that. I always fancied sculling, and I was always the fastest sculler in this country by far. But in Europe, I was back in the pack. After you've been winning medals, it would be difficult to go sculling to see if I could possibly make a final."

This, then, is a marriage of convenience. From Redgrave's point of view, a marriage of necessity. As for Pinsent, he was going to need his cockiness and his self-confidence: Holmes was a desperately hard act to follow. Anything less than victory would be failure.

And the pair failed to win their first world championship. "I couldn't face that at all," Pinsent said. "I had really expected to win. We blew it in the final. Inexperience. Lack of racing. We'd only been together a couple of months. We came back determined to take all the next season.

"Tensions creep in when the boat is not going well," Pinsent said. "In a pair, the automatic thing to do is blame things on the other person." As in marriage, of course. In a football team, you have ten other people to blame. "If it was just a Sunday morning paddle, it wouldn't matter if it was going well or badly. But we have somewhere to go, a goal to achieve." In a Sunday morning pair, friendship is the goal, sport the means. With these two, victory is the goal: their relationship the means.

"When the pair is not going smoothly the automatic reaction is to get tense, and the doubts start to creep in." The two of them told, with great relish, the story of their major on-board row: two hulking great men in the middle of a lake in Canada sitting in a minute strip of boat and roaring at each other like bulls.

"Off the water, things between us turn very competitive, very quickly." Pinsent said. "Not just in training. It's natural to be competitive in the weights room. But cards, golf, anything, it doesn't take much to get us going."

This was stirred up by an ostentatious piece of man-management by the British (former East German) rowing coach, Jurgen Grobler. He shifted Pinsent to the stroke position, to Redgrave's disgust and Pinsent's unabashed delight. They may not race in this formation in Barcelona, but the swapping about has kept things cooking between the two of them.

"Matthew has developed very quickly, partly as a result of rowing at stroke, and it has got to the stage that we are now equally matched," Redgrave said. "In the bow seat, I can control things a lot more, and use my experience of racing. I think that helps the pair. But the longer the pair goes on, the less he listens to me."

Racing decisions are traditionally left to the bowman "because he has the breath to talk". But leadership is not an issue in pairs rowing: races are not tactical. They are won and lost in the training of the winter before.

"Competitive, that's the word for Steve," Pinsent said. "Aggressive, dedicated — dedicated to the point of quashing other things, and that is the big difference between us. Steve is more cut-throat than I am when it comes to training."

"Working with Matthew has made things a little bit more light-hearted," Redgrave said. "Andy Holmes and I were very intense. We were very dedicated to achieving our goals, but that was it. It was the only thing we were interested in. Everything else was put on one side. As soon as training finished, we went our separate ways. We lived a long way apart.

"Matthew and I are very professional indeed when we get on the water, but there are times when we can have a laugh and a joke about things. And we like playing golf together, things like that.

"When you have been competing internationally as long as I have, it's hard to do the same things year in, year out. If you make a change, it can can be good."

There is no doubt about it: Sundance has revitalised old Butch, put a spring in his step, cheered him up, made him smile and made him feel young. Redgrave is now talking about the 1996 Olympics. So is Pinsent. "As long as the pair keeps winning, we'll keep rowing it," Pinsent said. "We won't ask questions until we starting getting beaten."

Two men in a boat: Redgrave, rear, and Pinsent pair their strength, aiming for an Olympic gold. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

BIOGRAPHIES

Steven Redgrave
Born: March 23, 1962. Age: 30.
Honours: 1984: Olympic Games coxed four gold medal. 1986: World championship coxed pair with Andy Holmes. 1987: World championship coxless pair (with Holmes). 1988: Olympic Games coxed pair bronze medal (with Holmes); Olympic Games coxless pair gold medal (with Holmes). 1990: World championship coxless pair bronze medal (with Matthew Pinsent). 1991: World champion coxless pair (with Pinsent).

Matthew Pinsent
Born: October 10, 1970. Age: 21.
Honours: 1988: World junior championship coxless four. 1990: World championship coxless pair bronze medal (with Steven Redgrave); Boat Race winner with Oxford. 1991: World champion coxless pair (with Redgrave); Boat Race winner.

Sponsors: Minet, MI Group, Russell Athletic, Sports Aid Foundation.

BOXING

Wharton must stay wide awake

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

HENRY Wharton, the exciting young Commonwealth super-middleweight champion from York, is going to give his supporters many "heart attacks" before he reaches that world title he appears destined to lift.

He kept a packed Leeds Town Hall waiting and worrying for eight rounds on Wednesday night before stopping Rod Carr, the tough Australian. Like most one-punch men he has a tendency to go to sleep when they come across opponents who can box.

They appear to have such confidence in their punch that they do not mind waiting for the right moment to land it and causing concern to friends. It used to be like that with Colin Jones the great one-punch man from Swansea.

While Wharton had Carr down the last time they met in June he could not keep him down, but this time he made sure, piling into him in the eighth round.

Wharton admitted: "I always seem to go to sleep and wake up when he hits me. I keep thinking about having to go 12 rounds. This was only my fifteenth fight. I'm learning all the time."

Wharton will have to stay wide awake when he meets the British champion, Fidel Castro Smith, of Sheffield, in June. Smith is a clever boxer despite his other name being Slugger O'Toole. Because Wharton has such a big following his manager, Mickey Duff, is going to put on the bout at an open air venue, either Headingly, the Rugby League ground, or Valley Parade.

☐ Chris Pyatt will make the second defence of his Commonwealth light-middleweight title against James Tapisha, of Zambia, in Wolverhampton on April 28.

☐ The IBF cruiserweight title bout between Johnny Nelson, of Britain, and James Warring, of the United States, on May 2 will take place in Fredericksburg, near Washington.

Barcelona counts the days

FROM TOM CLARKE
IN BARCELONA

WITH 105 days to go, Barcelona is nearly ready to present its unique Olympics, its monument to both the heights of technology and the pragmatism of urban and social regeneration.

Forty-two of the 44 sites are complete: the other two will be by Easter. On Sunday, the gates will be locked to the last coach tour, and they will not be opened to the public until the Olympic torch is carried into Montjuic Stadium on July 25.

Between now and then, the access roads will be completed, the villages for the competitors and the camp-followers will be furnished, the communications cables will be burrowed under the freshly-landscaped approaches, the security operation will be practised and tested, and Cobi, the designer mascot, will be attached to anything that has paid for an Olympic connection.

The trouble is that too many people want to be at Cobi's party, the biggest international festival sport has known.

When Barcelona was awarded the Games, it said that it would provide free transport to the Olympics and free accommodation for 10,000 athletes. It built Olympic villages for those 10,000 plus 5,000 officials. But nearly 19,000 (13,000 competitors and 6,000 officials) have applied for places and, with 31 countries still to confirm their teams, the final total may be nearer 20,000.

The Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee (COOB) points particularly at the huge applications from the United States (958 against 778 at Seoul four years ago), Germany (798), the Commonwealth of Independent States (689), and South Africa, which wants to mark its readmission to the Olympics by having 300 representatives. (Britain, by the way, has asked for places for at most 400 competitors and 180 officials).

Where are all the extra people going to be housed? And who pays for them? A delegation from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is here this week trying to find the answers.

In the long term, there has to be a heavy pruning of the number of Olympic competitors and officials and, most likely, in the number of sports. It is too late to do that now: perhaps a gentle reduction of the bigger delegations and a re-housing of many of the officials in the apparently under-subscribed hotels are parts of the solution for 1992. However, the more positive view is that, no matter how the Olympic ideal has been rewritten, the Olympic family is growing — and can continue growing — and that Barcelona is enjoying its Olympic metamorphosis.

Let the imagination run free as you gaze down from Montjuic over the city and you can see the Barcelona experience working for Manchester's campaign to stage the Olympics in 2000: an old but proud industrial city creating an Olympic village where worn-out factories had been decaying two years ago; leisure space from misused land (in Barcelona's case, seven kilometres of new beaches where the railway and industry had hogged the coastline); and an urban motorway.

"All this is not for financial gain," in the words of COOB, "but as a gift to the inhabitants. We will have a different city for 1993. We will have jumped 20 years in five years" . . . All because of *los Juegos*.

You can find other lines of encouragement for Manchester (and for any other city that cannot command cheap labour, like Peking and Brasilia, or abundant land, like Sydney).

Barcelona was awarded the Games after three unsuccessful bids. Much of the peripheral work will be done by a corps of 30,000 volunteers, whose training is financed by the Spanish car manufacturer, Seat. Barcelona's Olympic-led investment, over six years, in everything from roads to stadiums, is backed by a combination of national, provincial, city, national lottery and private money totalling £4.2 billion.

Barcelona's population of 1.75 million (with another 2.25 million in the metropolitan area) is not so very different from Greater Manchester's 2.6 million. (And there are even contributions from Britain in Norman Foster's design for the 268-metre high telecommunications tower and Hugh Hudson's direction of the film of the Games).

Anyone who believes that the Olympics are not a power for social reinvigoration and that Manchester's cause is a lost one needs to go no further than Barcelona to be corrected . . . An important old city is becoming an important new one.

JUDO

Thoughts of revenge inspire Rendle

BY A CORRESPONDENT

IF SHARON Rendle wins her seventh British Open title at Crystal Palace this weekend, it will give her more satisfaction than ever.

The imminence of the Olympics, where women's judo is on the main programme for the first time, has drawn a top-class field, led by Alessandra Giunji, the Italian who deprived Rendle of a third world title in Barcelona last year.

"I desperately want to beat her," Rendle, the 25-year-old featherweight from Grimsby, said. "We know each other so well that our contests are always close. But since winning the Tournoi de Paris in January, I have regained my confidence in my ability to throw the top opponents, not just win on a decision."

She will need that confidence on Saturday, when she also faces Christel Deliege, of Belgium, Fabienne Boffin, of France, Loretta Cusack, of Scotland, and two Japanese opponents.

The British women's squad is tipped to win a clutch of medals at Barcelona. Karen Briggs, the bantamweight, Diane Bell, the lightweight, and Kate Howey, the middleweight who meets the world champion, Emanuella Pierantozzi, of Italy, will not want to lose before a home crowd in an Olympic year.

There are a number of weight categories in the men's events that are still not filled for the Olympics, and performances in the British Open could tip the balance. There should be a thrilling competition in the featherweight (under-65kg) category, where Ian Freeman, from the Camberley club, is jostling for selection with the Scot, Mark Preston.

In the light-heavyweight (under-95kg) category, Ray Stevens, from The Budokwai, in London, returns to action 15 months after a knee operation. He has the natural ability to do well, but to walk straight into an event of this calibre, with 20 countries competing, is a tall order.

PROGRAMME: Tomorrow: Men and women, bantamweight to light-middleweight. Sunday: Men and women: middleweight to heavyweight.

Rendle: confident

Former England international will receive £25,000 salary

Hare returns as director of rugby for Nottingham

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NOTTINGHAM, on the brink of relegation from the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship, injected a surge of interest into their season yesterday with the announcement that Dusty Hare, the former England full back, will become their first paid director of rugby.

Hare, aged 39, a farmer in South Clifton, near Newark, will take up his appointment on June 1 after he has organised the running of his 300-acre farm. Whether the club for whom he played between 1970 and 1976 will be in the first or second division by then may hinge on the result of tomorrow's game against Northampton, the first-division leaders.

The job, reported to be worth around £25,000 a year, was decided on Wednesday night when Hare, who retired three years ago as the world record scorer of over 7,000 points in first-class rugby, was preferred from a shortlist of three.

This season Nottingham, cup semi-finalists a year ago, have faltered at the same time that Alan Davies has been coaching Wales. Davies's coaching, allied to the determination of a generation of club administrators to lift Nottingham out of the shadow of nearby Leicester and Coventry, contributed significantly to their elevation to the top six clubs in England during the 1980s.

This season Nottingham have had to cope with the unavailability of, or injury to, key players such as Simon Hodgkinson, Gary Rees and Chris Gray. "I'm going into it with open eyes," Hare said. "Alan Davies has made Nottingham a successful side and overnight you don't change just like that to relegation candidates."

He will bring a wealth of experience gleaned from 25 international appearances at full back between 1974 and 1984, a tour with the British Isles to New Zealand in 1983, and a glittering career with Leicester for whom he made six cup final appearances and helped to the inaugural league title in 1988.


Hare: out to bridge gap

"I'm a Nottinghamshire boy and I'm proud to be back," he said. "I hope we can do something to bridge the gap between the club and the many others in the Notts, Lincs and Derby area."

Ken Thomas, the Nottingham University lecturer, retires as honorary team manager at the end of this season.

☐ Neck and knee injuries have forced Donal Lenihan, the Ireland lock foward, to retire after an 11-year career. He won 52 international caps, making his debut against Australia in 1981, his last game being against Wales in the recently concluded five nations' championship. He captained Ireland on 17 occasions, including the 1987 World Cup and played for the Barbarians and the Irish Wolfhounds.

Sleeping giant begins to stir

GERALD DAVIES

CARDIFF rugby club, for the first time in its 115-year history, is drawing attention to itself for its failures rather than successes. The club has never looked so frayed at the edges, giving the impression of being carelessly adrift in a rugby world which is changing, and with which it is not yet able to come to terms.

In the past, Cardiff always seemed to get it right: polished and so smoothly run, they inspired envy and respect. Now there is an air of times past failing to come to grips with the new.

There has been a decline in playing standards over several seasons, which is now becoming acute. It is hardly believable that Cardiff, which pronounced itself "The Greatest" in its centenary book, have won only three of its matches and, since January, have failed to shift itself from a position second-from-bottom of the Heineken first division.

For the moment the club is consoled only by the fact that no team will drop down to the second division this season, but the guillotine will operate next year.

On and off the field there is a disconsolate mood. Spectators at home matches are down dramatically, bar takings greatly diminished.

"The prospect of relegation next season, if we were to stay as we are, does sharpen the mind," David Hayward, the former Wales flanker and Cardiff captain said.

"Our results over the last couple of seasons are self-evidently the worst in the club's history. We are now, though, in the process of putting that right and are restructuring the club." The last two weekends have been devoted entirely to meetings to streamline the system.

"A small executive committee, drawn from the general committee, will be the day-to-day decision makers," Hayward said. "In the past, our structure did not allow for immediate response and quick decisions. We hope to change that."

The club is also to appoint an executive to run the rugby section of the Cardiff Athletic Club and a coaching organiser to co-ordinate the teams Cardiff run from under-15 level upwards.

In this way, if they get it right, Cardiff will be in a better position than almost all other League clubs in the future. They cater for more than one generation, while the others only run one squad.

"Cardiff need a structure which offers a firmer direction on and off the field now that there are so many changes occurring. This must happen sooner rather than later and we will hope that everything will be in place by the summer," Hayward said.

The first part of the reorganisation could soon be completed. Alec Evans, the former assistant coach of Australia, is considering an offer to become the first co-ordinator of coaching.

Evans, aged 54, who coached the forwards on Australia's grand slam tour of Britain in 1984, has reportedly been offered a salary of over £30,000 and an executive position in the club.

He said: "It's a big decision to make at my stage of life to go to another country. I have to consider my family, the quality of life in Queensland and my club responsibilities."

IAN STEWART

In the right lane: Fibbens believes that his individual approach can take him to the Olympic final

A free spirit of the freestyle

BY CRAIG LORD

AS SOMEONE who advocates progress through quality (not quantity) training, and financial incentives, Mike Fibbens, swimming's World Cup series champion, fits uneasily in an amateur world slow to change. To him, money is time is money — you get out what you put in, both physically and financially.

Given such logic, a £5,000 *Times*/Minet award provides Fibbens, aged 24, with the opportunity to hone a natural talent that helped him to win a European championship bronze medal last year and lift the World Cup series sprint freestyle prize in February.

It was his success in the shadow of Mount Olympus last summer that set him apart from the two other Britons who now rank in the top ten in the world at 50 metres. While some argued that his pre-selection for the Olympics would deprive him of incentive, Fibbens has shown no sign of weakened resolve.

THE TIMES/MINET SUPREME AWARD

"Lane four in the final is my aim," he says of Barcelona. "I want them to know I'm there to do business. I want them to wonder what the hell an Englishman is doing in lane four." After the World Cup final six weeks ago, such a possibility should no longer be discounted.

When Fibbens looked across from his centre lane after the 50 metres, it was to see that two of his English team-mates, Mark Foster, a training partner at Barnet in London, and Austyn Shortman, the delighted World Cup champion, had relegated him to third place.

His reaction to that defeat, at the end of a ten-week period in which he had maintained extraordinary form, showed him to have acquired a quality some say he had lacked — maturity. Fibbens agrees, while passionately defending his right to be an individual and at the same time claiming a need for team support. His attitude and form will soon face their most severe test before Barcelona.

At the Edinburgh Open meeting next week, Aleksandr Popov will head a band of five Russians in the British grand prix 100 metres freestyle who have all recorded times faster than the British record.

The Times/Minet Supreme Awards are part of a £2 million sponsorship package from Minet, the London-based firm of international insurance brokers, to help fund Britain's preparations for the Olympic Games this year. The awards, which are administered by the Sports Aid Foundation, are being made to sportsmen and women whose outstanding performances have brought distinction and honour to British sport and are likely medal contenders.

SPORTS LETTERS

Racing must have an elected lobby

From Mr Rex Hamey

Sir, Horse racing is a spectator sport and must attract more of the paying public to its courses. In each of the last two years, only five million people paid to attend the 1,000 race days at the 59 racecourses, with bank holidays and Saturdays contributing half the total. Big crowds do go to the major events, such as Royal Ascot, Epsom Derby, and the Goodwood, York, Chester and Cheltenham festival meetings, which are held in midweek and are profitable.

The Horserace Betting Levy Board insists on at least two meetings daily, wrongly believing that more racing with more runners generates a greater betting turnover. In reality it means more bets of lower value stakes. To increase turnover requires a greater share of national wages, either by attracting people from other sports and gambling or the gamblers having more money to play with.

The prize fund is around £40 million, most of which is put in by the Levy Board, sponsors and owners. Racecourses cannot contribute to the prize fund without enough punters through the turnstiles. Every racecourse must have a break-even figure for a race day, but the method of funding the prizes allows them to ignore basic business ethics.

As the average admission charge is about £11.50, they have over £55 million to run the races and improve their property. Obviously having a race meeting at a time when the public won't go is foolish and should be stopped.

A total of 86 million guineas was paid for racehorses bought through the sales rings; add to that another 2,000 horses bred by owners to race, at an average of £7,500 each, and you have a total of over £100 million. Note that VAT is levied on about half the horses sold, all the training and the other service charges, amounting to £40 million.

Betting tax currently yields £400 million from punters. The 12,000 betting shops contribute another astronomical sum — together with newspapers, transport and catering firms also dependent on the racing for customers — by way of business rates and taxes too mixed to include here, as is the value of the 100,000 people who owe their wages to horse racing but don't go racing or touch a horse.

A racehorse in training and racing ten times a season costs about £9,000. From the monthly returns, normally over 12,000 horses are in training, giving another sum of well over £100 million.

Of the £40 million prizemoney, 22 per cent goes to trainers, jockeys and, to a lesser extent, stable lads. Stable staff cost £31.4 million, to which can be added the stud labour costs of £18 million. This is already included in the horse costs, but the figure is used here to show how little the actual workforce costs that generates the £4 billion betting turnover and £400 million tax.

The new government must be lobbied by a democratically elected body from the whole of the racing industry. Racing has milked its owners while listening to Jockey Club excuses and watching the bookmaking giants make fortunes.

Yours faithfully,
REX HAMEY,
Fairspear Studfarm,
Leafield,
Witney, Oxfordshire.

Short of space

From Mr Terry Webb

Sir, I have long been a supporter of all-seat stadiums. However, after my first visit to Wembley to watch the recent Zenith Data Systems Cup final, I now have a lot more sympathy with those who prefer to stand. Frankly, the seats are not big enough to sit in.

I had not previously appreciated the limitations of putting seating on to terraces originally designed for standing. Spectators use a lot more ground area sitting down than standing up, and the steps on the terraces are not deep enough to provide adequate space. For £19 one got a very cramped seat, in a stadium that looks old and outdated, and where the facilities are still very poor by any international comparison.

The only positive factor was that the seating did actually protect one from being crushed, as, once in the seat, nobody was physically able to move!

Yours faithfully,
TERRY WEBB,
10 The Briars,
Waterberry Drive,
Waterlooville, Hampshire.

Worthy equals

From Mr David Loveman

Sir, You report (April 2) that the British Olympic Association (BOA) complained that the British Paralympic Association's logo was "too similar to its own".

As a past (non-disabled) swimmer at national level and a staff team member with the British Paralympic team in Seoul, I would have said that the two logos were in fact too dissimilar. Members of the Paralympic team train as hard and are as elite as their counterparts in the Olympic team and are as deserving of the Olympic rings.

The time is long past when the BOA and the International Olympic Committee should have recognised these facts and granted use of the ultimate in sporting symbols to sportsmen and women alongside whom I would have been proud to stand — had I reached their standard.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LOVEMAN,
3 Sandrock House,
Sandrock Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Larger court

From Mr D. A. H. Davies

Sir, Further to Dr Ian J. Dilworth's letter (April 2), has it been considered that the science of sports equipment may be countered by size? The bigger the racket, the bigger the ball, and, probably the most outrageous, why not increase the playing area?

If the squash court were to be enlarged, fitness, already the major piece of equipment, would become very apparent. The professional let would become obvious and the skill of the exponent extremely relevant.

The lob and drop shots of the older generation would become effective and stretch modern-day training. Squash would benefit as a spectator sport, laying emphasis on the gladiatorial skills of players actually trying to win points, rather than the wall-to-wall, boring process that the modern game dictates.

Yours faithfully,
TONY DAVIES,
10 Cherry Orchard Road,
Lisvane,
Cardiff.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Formula One unsung hero

From Mr N. Armitage

Sir, Last week (April 1) we had the inspiring news that Perry McCarthy had won a seat in the Andrea Moda Formula One motor racing team. McCarthy's story itself is worth a biography, never mind a newspaper article. He is a true British motor racing hero: he has not had a drive in this country for three years and has had to go to America to drive sports cars, which he has done superbly.

He has only carried out a couple of practice sessions in this country, but, when he has, he has thoroughly embarrassed better known, but less talented, drivers. Yet he is virtually unknown in his own country, and is about to have his house repossessed.

Having been awarded his much deserved super licence for Formula One, he promptly had it rescinded by the travelling Fisa bureaucrat in Brazil (report, April 4). Yet we still have to endure the pain of witnessing Giovanna Amati trundle around at walking pace, complete with super licence.

There must be many ways of selecting drivers for Formula One. My suggestions would be to test aspiring drivers in a strange car, on a strange circuit, and they would be required to get within, say, one second of an established Formula One driver's target time within, say, 25 laps.

Yours faithfully,
N. ARMITAGE,
Culver Barn,
Longworth, Oxfordshire.

League dropouts

From Mr A. C. Viney

Sir, I expect I am a bit longer in the tooth than Mr Robin Stieber (Sports Letters, April 2), but I can recall Aberdare, who dropped out of the Football League in the 1920s, as well as Accrington Stanley and Aldershot.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. VINEY,
1 Royle Close,
Lawrence Road, Heath Park,
Romford, Essex.

Test of time

From Mr Maurice Holmes

Sir, My daughter raised an interesting point during the Boat Race last Saturday.

She asked why, in view of things such as better boats and oars, more enlightened training methods, better facilities and food, older and bigger oarsmen, we have not seen a huge decrease in the time taken to complete the Putney to Mortlake course over all these years.

Yours etc.,
MAURICE HOLMES,
Cherwell Croft,
72 Church Street,
Kidlington, Oxford.

Time to devalue penalty

From Father J. McAuliffe

Sir, As a former player, and now a keen supporter, of rugby football, I must confess my ongoing frustration at the utterly disproportionate influence that goalkicking continues to assume in the game. So many key matches — many of them internationals — have been decided on penalties, which are often the result of mistakes or misinterpretation of the laws on the part of individual referees.

I cannot understand why a penalty goal — with all the elaborate preparations that seem to be necessary for the kick (the latest being the construction of a mound of sand) — should be worth one point less than a try, which has often been beautifully manufactured and executed.

Penalties seem to be awarded for very dubious reasons: over the top, accidental offside, tackles which some referees interpret as dangerous when they are merely smothering tackles, lifting and barging in the lineout — and so on.

Triple crowns and grand slams have been won by teams who possessed goalkickers well out of the ordinary. As an Irishman, I remember our triple crown successes of 1949, 1982 and 1985, made possible by the goalkicking ability of George Norton, Ollie Campbell and Michael Kiernan.

Between 1949 and 1985 Ireland produced some excellent sides, which, however, largely because of the lack of a reliable goalkicker, won neither triple crown nor grand slam. How sad that a genius like Mike Gibson played for some 16 seasons without a solitary significant success.

Let us hope that the International Board meeting next week increases the differential between the penalty goal and the try. I feel I am getting too old and, perhaps, too bored to worry any more! Still, I feel it beggars description that the powers that be in rugby football have not so far had the wisdom or common sense to see clearly the disproportionate influence that goalkicking has, over the years, assumed in the game.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES McAULIFFE,
Sacred Heart Presbytery,
1 Albert Road,
Bournemouth,
Dorset.

Master of swing

From Mr John Green

Sir, Nick Faldo and David Leadbetter might well profit from a close study of one of the greatest golf swings ever to grace the world's fairways. I speak of the legendary Samuel Jackson Snead.

I have had the pleasure of watching most of the leading golfers of the last 60 years, and have played with many of them. Snead was over here for the Ryder Cup at Wentworth in 1953. In those days, it was easy to be near to the players and study their styles.

Snead's swing was a joy to behold — simple, rhythmical and powerful. The fact that his professional career spanned four decades underlines the effectiveness and durability of his swing. In the end, putting problems marked the close of his career.

Snead's advice was to "keep your head still and hit it with your hands", which aspiring golfers would do well to follow. From observation, many golfers make the game much too complicated and become obsessed by the endless stream of conflicting advice offered by golf magazines.

Almost all the "new" methods I see offered were well known 50 years ago. Only superior equipment, designed to make the game easier, is of much use to the average club player. Some of this is of very dubious value and can be very expensive.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GREEN,
65 Wood Vale,
Muswell Hill, N10.

Keep the lid on

From Mr Simon Weir

Sir, Will the makers of the replacement FA Cup (report, later editions, April 6) restore the dignity of the trophy by making one with the lid fixed firmly on, so that we are spared the awful Wembley ritual of one of the winners cavorting around with the top as a hat?

Yours faithfully,
SIMON WEIR,
35 Master Close,
Oxted, Surrey.

RACING

Texan Clamour gives Moore first success

POLLING day 1992 will be fondly recalled by Glenn Moore as the day he rode his first winner.

It was a family occasion at Taunton as the 20-year-old launched his career on 15-length winner Texan Clamour, trained by his cousin, Stan.

The jockey, from Dromore in Ireland, joined his cousin's operation near Andover last summer after working for trainer Jeremy Maxwell in Northern Ireland.

Moore sat admirably tight when Texan Clamour attempted to uproot the final flight in the Spring Conditional Jockeys' Selling Hurdle and the duo came home unchallenged.

Ross-on-Wye trainer John Edwards needed the coin to drop his way after a luckless season and 3-1 favourite Red Rondo had all the good fortune going in the Husbands Handicap Chase.

Red Rondo, never jumping cleanly, was left in front when the two leaders, Bayram and Winabuck, came down two fences out, and he went on to beat Colonel O'Kelly by two-and-a-half lengths.

Graham McCourt came in for the winning ride as stable jockey Norman Williamson was sitting out the final day of a whip offence suspension.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Hamilton Park

Going: good to soft (soft in places)

2.15 (6f 4yd) 1, PURCHASED BY PHONE (Darren Moffatt, 10-1); 2, Classic Storm (G Carter, 7-4); 3, Shadow Jury (K Darley, 10-11 fav). ALSO RAN: 14 Babytalker (5th), 20 Take Your Partner (4th). 50 All Baileys (6th). 6 ran. 3l, hd, 2½l, 5l, hd. D Moffatt at Cartmel. Tote £6.30; £1.60, £1.70. DF: £13.20. CSF: £28.31

2.45 (6f 5yd) 1, ABIGAILS BOY (J Fanning, 12-1); 2, Double Feature (J Weaver, 5-2 fav); 3, Pelecogate King (G Carter, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Spanish Express, 6 Denim Blue (6th), 8 Buddy (4th), 14 Summoned By Bells, 20 Indian Guest, 25 Shadaylou, High Principles (5th). 10 ran. ¾l, 2l, 6l, nk, 3l. J Scargill at Newmarket. Tote: £13.10; £2.20, £2.00, £1.80. DF: £21.40. CSF: £38.03. Tricast: £231.12

3.15 (1m 65yd) 1, MAJED (J Weaver, 5-1); 2, Rose Glen (A Tucker, 4-1); 3, Blue Grit (L Charnock, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Laurel Queen (4th), 5 Skipper To Bilge, 11-2 Solid (5th), 12 Matador (6th), 25 Fair Dave. 8 ran. 5l, 2l, 2l, ½l, 3½l. N Callaghan at Newmarket. Tote: £7.30; £2.60, £2.20, £5.30. DF: £13.60. CSF: £22.87. Tricast: £520.53

3.45 (1m 65yd) 1, ST JAMES'S ANTIGUA (M Hills, 6-4, Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Houlston's Will (T Lucas, 5-4 fav); 3, Chipper (M Roberts, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 20 Stoproveritate (5th), 25 The Dandy Don (4th), 33 Allmac Nomis, Slotter. 100 Crimson Consort (6th). 8 ran. 3l, 2½l, 2½l, 8l, 7l. W Haggas at Newmarket. Tote: £2.80; £1.20, £1.20, £1.10. DF: £2.60. CSF: £3.68.

4.15 (1m 1f 36yd) 1, PHILGUN (S Maloney, 100-30 fav); 2, Kadari (K Fallon, 7-1); 3, Double The Stakes (G Carter, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Roger Rabbit (4th), 11-2 Galley Gossip, 8 Milliti, 12 Debsy Do (6th), 20 Victor Romeo, Bartolomeo (5th), 25 Rap Up Fast. 10 ran. NR: Monbodie. 5l, ½l, ½l, 1l, 6l. W Elsey at Malton. Tote: £3.30; £1.10, £2.00, £6.50. DF: £14.40. CSF: £24.24. Tricast: £188.69.

4.45 (1m 3f 16yd) 1, LADY LYDIA (M Hills, 14-1); 2, Saif Al Adil (B Raymond, 5-1); 3, Five To Seven (A Proud, 6-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 5-2 Rock Hard (4th), 7-2 Illuminating (5th), 40 Elgin (6th). 6 ran. 2½l, nk, hd, 8l, dist. M Jarvis at Newmarket. Tote: £20.20; £1.30, £4.00. DF: £30.50. CSF: £72.86.

5.15 (1m 5f 9yd) 1, Sillars Stalker (N Carlisle, 11-8 fav; Mandarin's nap); 2, Hamilton Lady (33-1); 3, Sharp Top (9-2). 14 ran. Mrs J Ramsden NR: One For The Chief. Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £5.80, £1.80. DF: £70.30. CSF: £42.53. Tricast: £168.55.

Placepot: £255.10.

Taunton

Going: good to soft

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, TEXAN CLAMOUR (P Moore, 16-1); 2, Chimayo (S Humphreys, 7-2); 3, Betting Betting (M Foster, 9-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Jigging (f), 9 Cefundra (4th), 20 Gypsy Trail (5th), Winter Hazel (pu), 33 Set Up (ur), 50 Bolt Of Gold (f), Lalto Mass (pu). 10 ran. 15l, 15l, 1½l, 6l. J Moore at Thruxton. Tote: £10.40; £3.20, £1.40, £1.10. DF: £11.50. CSF: £43.09. Bought in 2,800gns.

2.30 (3m ch) 1, RED RONDO (G McCourt, 3-1 fav); 2, Colonel O'Kelly (N Hawke, 11-1); 3, Rare Bid (I Lawrence, 16-1); 4, Fib (D Morris, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Winabuck (f), 8 Sunbeam Talbot (pu), Celtic Diamond, 9 Bumbles Folly (pu), 10 Popeswood (pu), 12 Hurry Up Henry (5th), 14 Bayram (f), 20 Skylark Wonder (6th), 25 Double Tricks, 33 Ben Ledi (pu), 50 Bonanza Rebel (pu), 66 Golden Lantern (pu). 16 ran. 2½l, 1½l, 1l, 25l, 7l. J Edwards at Ross-On-Wye. Tote: £4.30; £1.70, £2.00, £3.00, £8.70. DF: £30.20. CSF: £35.63. Tricast: £439.11.

3.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, REDGRAVE GIRL (R Greene, 7-1); 2, La Raptotte (Judy Davies, 10-1); 3, Djabel Prince (J Osborne, 8-1); 4, Early Breeze (G McCourt, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 fav Garda's Gold (6th), 7 Moore Stylish, 8 Final Sound, Wingcommander Eats, 10 Great Simplicity, 12 Holyport Victory (5th), 20 Coney Dove, 33 Rickeston Lad, Ringyboy, Clare Lad, Peche D'Or, Nacona. 16 ran. Nk, ¾l, 2½l, 2½l, 2l. K Bishop at Bridgwater. Tote: £12.10; £2.60, £2.90, £1.20, £2.00. DF: £35.90. CSF: £69.52. Tricast: £516.92.

3.30 (2m 110yd ch) 1, LITTLE TOM (J Kavanagh, 13-2); 2, Touching Star (B Clifford, 9-4 fav); 3, St Athans Lad (D Morris, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Bush Hill (pu), 13-2 Broughton Manor (6th), 11 Diamond Run (4th), Henley Wood (f), 12 Owen (f), 14 Chesapeake Bay (f), Atalloun (5th), Lyph (f), 20 Carpe Diem (bd), 40 Benjamin Lancaster (f). 14 ran. NR: City Index. 2½l, 15l, 16l, 2½l, 15l. J King at Swindon. Tote: £9.20; £2.40, £1.80, £2.90. DF: £18.00. CSF: £22.14. Tricast: £195.94.

4.00 (3m 3f ch) 1, BALLYEDEN (Mr P Schofield, 5-4 fav); 2, Impy Condor (Mr R Atkinson, 11-4); 3, Roving Seal (Mr T McCarthy, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Queensway Boy (4th), 25 Fowling Piece (f), 33 Eagle Trace (6th), Ellerendem (ur), Mickley Treasure (pu). 66 Royal Voyager (5th). 9 ran. 2½l, 6l, 5l, 2l, 1l. Mrs S Messer-Bennetts at Wadebridge. Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £1.10, £1.30. DF: £3.60. CSF: £4.65.

4.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, MRS JAWLEY FORD (Mr M Ranger, 10-11 fav); 2, Hawthorne Glen (J Osborne, 7-1); 3, Croghan Rose (Peter Hobbs, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 12 Ruths Pride (5th), 14 Northern Binde, 16 On Alert (4th), 33 Kingsley Singer, 66 No Hassle Wassi (pu), Hushup (pu), Red Nest (6th). 10 ran. 15l, 5l, 1l, hd, 12l. C Smith at Wellington. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £1.50, £1.90. DF: £2.80. CSF: £6.99.

5.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, NOBLE YEOMAN (D Meredith, 6-4 fav, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Street Kid (G McCourt, 15-8); 3, Little Lad (I Shoemark, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Ptolemy, 9 Mine's An Ace (6th), 12 Middlewick (pu), 33 Handy Dove (4th), 100 Allo George (5th), 200 Gladys Emmanuel, Little Ella (pu). 10 ran. 5l, 3l, 3l, 2l, 6l. R Dickin at Newent. Tote: £2.60; £1.30, £1.30, £2.50. DF: £3.00. CSF: £4.55.

Placepot: £39.20.

Musicale to stake Guineas claim in Newbury trial

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

MUSICALE can retain her unbeaten record and advertise her 1,000 Guineas chance by beating Culture Vulture in the Gainsborough Stud Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury this afternoon.

With the corresponding race having been won by the subsequent 1,000 Guineas winner for the past two seasons — Salsabil and Shadayid — maximum attention will be focussed on today's trial.

Musicale was rated 3lb better than Culture Vulture in the Free Handicap and, following encouraging reports from Newmarket, the Henry Cecil-trained filly is now napped to confirm that assessment.

Although the two in question never met last year, the handicapper had an interesting form line through Mystery Play to consider before reaching his conclusion.

When she won the Rockfel Stakes over seven furlongs at Newmarket in October, Musicale gave Mystery Play 3lb and beat her more easily than the official verdict of one-and-a-half lengths suggests.

Before that Mystery Play had finished two lengths behind Culture Vulture when they contested Ascot's Brent Walker Mile at level weights.

Culture Vulture then went on to win the Prix Marcel Boussac at Longchamp on Arc day at the expense of Hatoof, who was unlucky in running.

Culture Vulture ended her two-year-old career by finishing only ninth in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile where she missed the break and was hampered.

Earlier, she made a winning debut on today's track before splitting Marwell and another of today's runners Central City in that driving finish for the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot. Central City was not seen out afterwards.

John Dunlop, the trainer of Salsabil and Shadayid, now relies upon Oumaldaaya, who is probably better than her bare form suggests since she started favourite every time she ran last year while only winning once.

Like Rose Indien and Wiedniu, the only other runners, she will either need to have made great strides during the winter if she is to trouble the principals or they will have to have deteriorated. My information is that they have not.

Cecil: has Musicale in good trim for return

There was a time when Cecil used to farm the Spring Maiden Stakes. He did not have a runner 12 months ago but **Tapis Rouge** has been going well enough on the heath recently to suggest that he can give Steve Cauthen a winning ride this time, probably at the expense of Greek Tycoon.

Cauthen also has a good chance of winning the Thatcham Handicap on **Satin Lover**, who did nothing but improve last year after joining Reg Akehurst's successful Epsom stable.

Macfarlane, who relishes give underfoot, is a more tentative selection to win the Newbury Trade Stands Handicap.

At Ayr, **Granville Again** is entitled to the benefit of the doubt for the Scottish Champion Hurdle since he still held every chance of winning the big one at Cheltenham when he misjudged the second last hurdle and fell. Prior to that he was unbeaten in four races this season.

Provided that his confidence has not been affected by that tumble, Granville Again should have too much finishing speed for Fidway, who eventually finished fourth at Cheltenham.

Earlier in the programme, **Way Of Life** (2.30) and **King's Curate** (3.00) can provide Stan Mellor and Simon Earle with a double.

Over The Road to miss Ayr

By MICHAEL SEELY

JOHN Upson has decided against running Over The Road, who finished eighth to Party Politics last Saturday, in tomorrow's William Hill Scottish National at Ayr.

"We've decided it wouldn't be fair to run him," said the trainer. "He had a hard race and hasn't had time to get over it."

Over The Road was a 12-1 chance with the sponsors prior to Upson's anouncement. The only three horses backed with Hills yesterday were Riverside Boy, who is now 10-1 (from 12-1), Dalkey Sound 14-1 (from 16-1), and Merry Master 16-1 (from 20-1).

Other news on Scotland's richest jumping race is that Tom Troubador, withdrawn when ante-post favourite for the Ritz Club National Hunt Handicap Chase at Cheltenham, was yesterday en route to Ayr.

The improving nine-year-old, a clever winner of two handicaps at Newbury in February, is expected to prove effective over tomorrow's extended four miles.

"He wrapped himself on a joint and had to miss the Ritz," Josh Gifford, his trainer, said yesterday. "We thought he was out for the season but he's gone the right way and touch wood he'll give us a good run."

Blinkered first time

THIRSK: 4.50 Olette.

THIRSK

MANDARIN

2.20 Breakfast Boogie. 2.50 Plan Ahead. 3.20 Sharpalto. 3.50 Swellegant. 4.20 Viardot. 4.50 Stormswept.

THUNDERER

2.20 Preston Guild. 2.50 Too Eager. 3.20 Sharpalto. 3.50 Swellegant. 4.20 Viardot. 4.50 Olette.

Richard Evans: 4.20 Viardot. 4.50 **OLETTE** (nap).

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM PATCHES) SIS

DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.20 EBF BRITON MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £2,629: 5f) (10 runners)

1		ARGYLE CAVALIER F Lee 9-0	G Carter 6
2		BONUS POINT Mrs G Reveley 9-0	K Darley 10
3	0	GREAT MASHHOR 14 J Wainwright 9-0	W Newnes 9
4	0	HEBER SPRING 7 R Hannon 9-0	A McGlone 7
5		PRESTON GUILD J Berry 9-0	N Connorton 8
6	4	SISON 18 R Whitaker 9-0	A Culhane 2
7		WARKWORTH J Watts 9-0	J Lowe 1
8		BREAKFAST BOOGIE J Fanshawe 8-9	G Duffield 4
9		PENNY BANGER M Johnston 8-9	R P Elliott 3
10	2	SO SO 13 T Barron 8-9	Alex Greaves 5

3-1 Breakfast Boogie, 7-2 So So, 9-2 Preston Guild, 6-1 Warkworth, 7-1 Sison, 10-1 Penny Banger, 12-1 others.

2.50 KNAYTON SELLING STAKES

(£2,500: 7f) (16)

1	5-02	DAWN'S DELIGHT 9 (D,G,S) K Ivory 14-9-12	M Wigham 13
2	00-5	GREEN'S SEAGO 37J (D) J Harris 4-9-12	R Cochrane 9
3	06-0	HELAWE 6 (B,D,F,G) M Prescott 9-9-12	G Duffield 14
4	-322	MCA BELOW THE LINE 16 (B,D,BF,F) W Pearce 4-9-12	D Nicholls 4
5	0-00	TOO EAGER 16 (B,D,BF,F,G,S) M W Easterby 6-9-12	K Darley 10
6	000-	TURBULENT RIVER 65J (D,F) N Tinkler 4-9-12	Kim Tinkler 16
7	205-	ANGEL TRAIN 252 (F,G) J Parkes 4-9-7	J Weaver (7) 15
8	20-0	LOMBARD SHIPS 42 (F,S) M O'Neill 5-9-7	J Fortune 1
9	000-	PENANDO 48J O O'Neill 4-9-7	A Clark 2
10	0-00	YONGE TENDER 44 (B,CD,F,G) J Wharton 5-9-7	J Fanning (3) 3
11	6440	DASHING APRIL 8 (V) D Thom 4-9-2	J Quinn 12
12	1430	POP TO STANS 27 (C,D,F) T Barron 3-8-11	Alex Greaves 7
13	560-	THORNTON GATE 181 (CD,F) M H Easterby 3-8-11	M Birch 5
14	00-0	BETWEEN TWO FIRES 15 (D,F) J Berry 3-8-6	G Carter 8
15	60-1	EMERALD EARS 16 (D,G) E Weymes 3-8-6	G Hind 6
16	220-	PLAN AHEAD 160 G Lewis 3-8-1	F Norton (5) 11

4-1 Pop To Stans, 5-1 Helawe, 6-1 Emerald Ears, MCA Below The Line, 8-1 Dawn's Delight, 10-1 Thornton Gate, 12-1 others.

3.20 BIRDFORTH HANDICAP (£2,941: 7f)

(16)

1	1/00-	TUSKY 300 (C,G) M Camacho 4-10-0	N Connorton 8
2	1-61	SUPER BENZ 35 (D,F,G,S) T Fairhurst 6-9-9	J Fanning (3) 7
3	00-0	JUST A STEP 21 (D,F,G) M McCormack 8-8-7	W Newnes 3
4	000-	MASTER POKEY 203 (CD,F,G,S) M W Easterby 8-8-4	T Lucas 10
5	00-0	DUCKINGTON 14 (D,F,G) M H Easterby 8-8-2	M Birch 9
6	10-0	SHARPALTO 20 (D,G,S) Mrs G Reveley 5-8-2	G Hind 6
7	2462	TOSHIBA COMET 9 (B,F,G,S) W Pearce 5-8-1	D Nicholls 13
8	53-0	IKTESHAF 22 (F,G) B Hanbury 4-8-13	V Bray (7) 1
9	0-21	CRONK'S COURAGE 9 (V,F,S) E Alston 6-8-11 (5ex)	M Hills 11
10	43-0	ARABIAN KING 14 (D,F) M Brittain 4-8-10	K Darley 15
11	000-	JAZILAH 170 (C,F) M Naughton 4-8-9	L Charnock 2
12	00/0	NORTHERN PRINTER 21 (D,F,G) M O'Neill 7-8-9	J Fortune 14
13	12-3	ABSO 21 (D,F,G) R Hannon 4-8-8	R Hills 5
14	60-0	CASHTAL DAZZLER 13 (C,D,F,S) N Tinkler 5-8-8	Kim Tinkler 16
15	150-	HAMADRYAD 163 (D,F) W Carter 4-8-5	G Carter 4
16	1305	ORIENT AIR 16 (B,D,BF,F) T Barron 4-8-4	Alex Greaves 12

4-1 Super Benz, 6-1 Toshiba Comet, 7-1 Abso, 8-1 Cronk's Courage, Sharpalto, 9-1 Duckington, 10-1 others.

3.50 HAMBLETON GRADUATION STAKES

(3-Y-O: £2,774: 5f) (5)

1	354-	THREEPENCE 168 (B,D,S) J Berry 9-7	G Carter 5
2	201-	SWELLEGANT 185 (D,G) W Haggas 9-2	M Hills 1
3	5-	BLACK CORAL 179 C Wall 8-9	R Cochrane 4
4	43-	HOT LAVENDER 262 C Wall 8-9	J Quinn 2
5	82-	MY SOVEREIGN 177 J Fanshawe 8-9	G Duffield 3

2-1 Swellegant, 9-4 Threepence, 11-4 My Sovereign, 8-1 Black Coral, Hot Lavender.

4.20 SOWERBY STAKES

(3-Y-O: £2,560: 1m 4f) (4)

1	52-1	GOLDSMITHS' HALL 15 (D,S) G Wragg 9-2	R Hills 1
2	3-1	VIARDOT 11 (S) M Stoute 9-2	R Cochrane 4
3	00-2	IN THE MONEY 22 R Hollinshead 8-11	W Ryan 3
4	3-3	LEGENDARY 13 P Chapple-Hyam 8-11	M Hills 2

11-10 Goldsmiths' Hall, 6-4 Viardot, 5-1 Legendary, 10-1 In The Money.

4.50 OAKSTRIPE HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £3,155: 7f) (16)

1	510-	REDISHAM 164 (F) J Gosden 9-7	G Hind 8
2	006-	PERSONAL HAZARD 170 (D,F) M H Easterby 9-6	M Birch 13
3	0-1	GENERAL JOHN 98 P Haslam 9-4	Dale Gibson 1
4	31-	OLETTE 249 (B,F) G Wragg 9-2	R Cochrane 4
5	1450	TRY LEGUARD 20 (D,G) W Carter 9-2	G Carter 2
6	3-13	JEFFERSON DAVIS 70 (D,S,BF) W Pearce 8-13	D Nicholls 6
7	323-	BIG HAND 183 J Watts 8-13	N Connorton 14
8	100-	MOLTEN COPPER 184 (F) M W Easterby 8-12	J Marshall (7) 5
9	000-	MY JERSEY PEARL 153 (G) E Incisa 8-11	Kim Tinkler 15
10	06-6	BOULABAS 22 (G) M O'Neill 8-11	J Lowe 10
11	850-	ABELONI 193 A Scott 8-10	J Fortune 3
12	55-5	STORMSWEPT 13 (S) P Chapple-Hyam 8-9	B Thomas (7) 11
13	500-	LOWLANDS BOY 195 (D,F) T Fairhurst 8-7	J Fanning (3) 16
14	25-0	DAARIS 13 D Morley 8-7	K Darley 9
15	06-0	HOB GREEN 16 Mrs J Ramsden 8-2	A Mackay 7
16	400-	ESSAYEFFSEE 154 (B) M H Easterby 8-1	S Maloney (5) 12

9-2 Stormswept, 5-1 Olette, 6-1 Redisham, 7-1 Big Hand, 8-1 Try Leguard, 10-1 General John, Personal Hazard, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Scott, 6 winners from 13 runners, 46.2%. G Wragg, 4 from 9, 44.4%. W Haggas, 5 from 12, 41.7%. J Wharton, 5 from 21, 23.8%. F Lee, 6 from 34, 17.6%. M Stoute, 4 from 26, 15.4%.

JOCKEYS: R Hills, 9 winners from 35 rides, 25.7%. G Carter, 10 from 40, 25.0%. A McGlone, 3 from 13, 23.1%; W Newnes, 8 from 35, 22.9%. M Birch, 28 from 168, 16.7%; A Culhane, 11 from 86, 12.8%.

Alner clear after treble

ROBERT Alner pulled eight clear of nearest rival Philip Scholfield in the riding championship with a treble at the Axe Vale point-to-point on Wednesday (Brian Beel writes).

After winning the open on Gunner's Flight and the intermediate on Ocean Link, luck was with him in the second division of the restricted on Winnie Lorraine. The favourite was 20 lengths behind David Luff on Penny Fizz at the last when the leader fell.

AXE VALE (Stafford Cross) Hunt: 1, Crowd Point (D Salter, 16-1), 2, Elver Panto, 3, Brickyard. 7 ran. Confined: 1, Friendly Lady (N Bush, 4-6 fav), 2, Felmist; 3, Jay Elle Thaw. 10 ran. Open: 1, Gunner's Flight (R Alner, 1-4 fav); 2, Connemara Dawn, 3, Seal Prince. 4 ran. Ladies: 1, Country Damsel (Mrs J Litston, 1-2 fav), 2, Puppet Show, 3, Mistreak. 7 ran. Intermediate: 1, Ocean Link (R Alner, 5-2), 2, Enchanting River; 3, Pat Steel. 6 ran. Rest I: 1, Captain Dimitris (J Farthing, 4-1); 2, King Gunner, 3, Comic Line. 13 ran. Rest II: 1, Winnie Lorraine (R Alner, 2-5 fav): 2, Strumpetus, 3, Double Handful. 10 ran.

Hatoof has difficult task against Kenbu

By MICHAEL SEELY

HATOOF, currently Ladbrokes' 6-1 joint-favourite with Musicale for the 1,000 Guineas, faces a stiff test on her seasonal reappearance against the Francois Boutin-trained Kenbu in the Prix Imprudence at Maisons-Laffitte this afternoon.

An unlucky loser of last autumn's Prix Marcel Boussac, Maktoum Al-Maktoum's filly is being prepared for an attempt to credit her owner with his second and Criquette Head, the trainer, with her third triumph in the first of the fillies' classics.

Issuing a warning about the possibility of defeat over seven furlongs, the trainer said: "Hatoof has been moving very well, but the trip could be on the short side. She has not changed much as she was a very mature two-year-old. I fear Kenbu, as she is very fast over this distance."

Kenbu, twice a winner earlier last season, then chased home her stable companion, the brilliant Arazi, in the Prix Morny before finishing behind Hatoof in the Marcel Boussac.

However, Boutin sounded in optimistic mood when he commented: "This is a filly who feels the cold and she still hasn't got her summer coat. But although she won't be in peak condition, she is really well and I expect her to find her best 1991 form."

Only one of the colts in the other trial, the Prix Djebel, holds the 2,000 Guineas engagement. Cardoun, Elie Lellouche's winner of the Criterium de Maisons-Laffitte over course and distance in November, must win in style if he is to be sent to Newmarket.

The fillies' trials followhard on the heels of each other and at Newmarket on Tuesday, 14 have accepted for the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes.

Henry Cecil expects to be represented by both Midnight Air and Skimble. Midnight Air, the disqualified winner of last autumn's Brent Walker Mile, is reported to be working well, although her trainer thinks that a mile may be a little short for her this year.

Skimble, winner of her only start at Newmarket in October, has come to hand early and is expected to give a bold showing.

Michael Stoute intends running Perfect Circle, an impressive winner at Kempton before disappointing in the Marcel Boussac. "She will run really well but I'm not yet convinced that she's a Guineas filly," said the trainer, about the daughter of Fair Salinia, who finished second in the 1,000 Guineas of 1978 prior to her winning the Oaks. "On her breeding, she might be better with a little further to travel," Stoute added.

Another Boussac failure, Red Slippers, previously an easy winner at Ascot, is also on target for Tuesday's race. "Although she hasn't grown a lot, she's thickened out," said Luca Cumani. "She's not quite fully wound up and will find it tough against the likes of Midnight Air."

Other useful fillies engaged are Cambrian Hills, Mahasin, Soiree and the Jim Bolger-trained Miznah.

An interesting acceptor the same afternoon is Dilum for the five-furlong Abernant Stakes, for which his trainer, Paul Cole, has also declared Lee Artiste.

"We're still going to see how Magic Ring gets on in the Greenham on Saturday before we decide what to do with Dilum," said the trainer yesterday. "And whether Lee Artiste runs depends on how she works on Saturday morning."

Big-race acceptors

SHADWELL STUD NELL GWYN STAKES (Group III: 3-Y-O fillies £20,223: 7f) A-To-Z (M Bell), Cambrian Hills (P Chapple Hyam), Central City (R Hannon), Harvest Girl (G Pritchard-Gordon), Herora (N Graham), Mahasin (J Dunlop), Midnight Air (H Cecil), Miss Bluebird (P Kelleway), Miznah (J Bolger), Perfect Circle (M Stoute), Red Slippers (L Cumani), Skimble (H Cecil), Soiree (B Hills), Waterfowl Creek (G Wragg)

NEWBURY

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
2.10 Beaver Brook.	2.10 Sabre Rattler.	2.40 Greek Tycoon.
2.40 Tapis Rouge.	2.40 Tapis Rouge.	
3.10 MUSICALE (nap).	3.10 Musicale.	
3.40 Macfarlane.	3.40 Stack Rock.	
4.10 Big Leap.	4.10 Sharp Prince.	
4.40 Satin Lover.	4.40 Shoofe.	

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Tapis Rouge 3.10 MUSICALE (nap). 4.10 Big Leap.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST STRAIGHT COURSE

2.10 EBF BECKHAMPTON MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £3,980: 5f 34yd) (14 runners)

101	(1)		ANSELLMAN (Ansells of Watford) M Haynes 9-0	B Rouse	—
102	(4)		ARADANZA (Mrs P Lewis) M Channon 9-0	J Williams	—
103	(6)		BEAVER BROOK (A Budge (Equine) Ltd) R Hannon 9-0	B Raymond	—
104	(14)	0	BIRD HUNTER 8 (Y Nasib) N Callaghan 9-0	D Holland	—
105	(13)		CONSPICUOUS (F Salman) P Cole 9-0	A Munro	—
106	(7)		COPPOT TEL (L Gaucci) C Brittain 9-0	M Roberts	—
107	(11)		CRUSADE (Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds Ltd) R Hannon 9-0	J Reid	—
108	(10)		GRAND APPLAUSE (M Lewin) R Simpson 9-0	A Tucker (5)	—
109	(12)		KINTWYN (Mrs F Bacon) D Laing 9-0	S Whitworth	—
110	(2)		MIDWINTER DREAM (J Smith) D Elsworth 9-0	S Cauthen	—
111	(8)	32	SABRE RATTLER 8 (BF) (H Hughes) J Berry 9-0	Pat Eddery	—
112	(9)		SHADES OF CROFT (M Usher) M Usher 9-0	C Rutter	—
113	(5)		WICKINS (Mrs N Lewis) G Lewis 9-0	Paul Eddery	—
114	(3)		SIMPLY SOOTY (Mrs S Joint) B Millman 8-9	G Baxter	—

BETTING: 3-1 Conspicuous, 7-2 Sabre Rattler, 7-1 Beaver Brook, 10-1 Coppot Tel, 14-1 Midwinter Dream, Bird Hunter, 16-1 Crusade, 20-1 Kintwyn, Wickins, 25-1 others.

1991: FAIR CRACK 9-0 B Raymond (15-2) R Hannon 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BEAVER BROOK (foaled Apr 19, cost 20,000gns) half-brother by Balm to 6f/7f juvenile winner X My Heart and 5f/6f juvenile winner Level Xing. BIRD HUNTER 15l 8th of 9 to Moodlesburn in Brighton (5f 59yd, good to soft) stakes race. CONSPICUOUS (Mar 14, Ir70,000gns) half-brother by Alzao to Marty's Smarty, a multiple winner in the United States. COPPOT TEL (Apr 7, Ir14,500gns) half-brother by Jareer to 1m 3f claiming winner Smoke Screen. CRUSADE (Mar 14, 10,500gns) half-brother by Digamist to 5f juvenile winner Graceland Lady. MIDWINTER DREAM (Mar 29) half-brother by Midyan to 7f winner Platinum Disc. SABRE RATTLER ½l 2nd of 8 to Key To My Heart in Hamilton (5f, heavy) maiden.

Selection: SABRE RATTLER

2.40 SPRING MAIDEN STAKES

BBC2

(3-Y-O: £3,494: 1m 3f 5yd) (10 runners)

201	(3)		AMBIGUOUSLY REGAL (G Ohrstrom) Mrs J Cecil 9-0	Paul Eddery	—
202	(7)	2-	GREEK TYCOON 237 (C Shiacolas) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	● 99
203	(10)	00-	LANDED GENTRY 167 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	L Dettori	—
204	(1)		PARADISE NAVY (W Gredley) C Brittain 9-0	M Roberts	—
205	(9)	04-	POINCIANA 205 (B Lalemant) R Hannon 9-0	Pat Eddery	85
206	(8)	5-	PYARE SQUARE 238 (P Mellon) I Balding 9-0	J Reid	98
207	(5)		SECRET PICNIC (L Gaucci) B Hanbury 9-0	B Raymond	—
208	(4)	6-	SILVERNESIAN 167 (G Italia) J Dunlop 9-0	W Carson	—
209	(2)		TAPIS ROUGE (Sheikh Mohammed) H Cecil 9-0	S Cauthen	—
210	(6)		WHITEHALL (J Mitchell) C Nelson 9-0	D Holland	—

BETTING: 13-8 Greek Tycoon, 11-2 Tapis Rouge, 8-1 Pyare Square, 8-1 Silvernesian, 10-1 Poinciana, 12-1 Landed Gentry, 14-1 Ambiguously Regal, Whitehall, 16-1 others.

1991: NORTHWIND 8-9 Pat Eddery (6-1) B Hills 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

AMBIGUOUSLY REGAL by Vaguely Noble out of a dam who won over 1m 4f in France. GREEK TYCOON, half-brother to smart French middle distance winner Extol, 1½l 2nd of 18 to Colorific in maiden here (7f, good to firm).
PARADISE NAVY by Slip Anchor and is a half-brother to 3 winners. POINCIANA 9l 4th of 11 to Zaahi in Sandown (7f, good to firm) maiden. PYARE SQUARE 8l 5th of 5 to Rodrigo De Triano in listed race here (7f, good to firm). SECRET PICNIC by Secreto and is a half-brother to 2 winners in the United States. SILVERNESIAN 13½l 6th of 16 to Aljadeer in stakes race here (1m, good) with LANDED GENTRY 5½l 10th. TAPIS ROUGE an Irish River half-brother to Prix Marcel Boussac winner Mary Linoa: dam won up to 1m 2f. WHITEHALL, a Don't Forget Me half-brother to useful Bronzewing.

Selection: GREEK TYCOON (nap)

3.10 GAINSBOROUGH STUD FRED DARLING STAKES

BBC2

(Group III: 3-Y-O fillies: £18,353: 7f 64yd, rnd) (6 runners)

301	(2)	113-	CENTRAL CITY 286 (G) (A Budge (Equine) Ltd) R Hannon 9-0	B Raymond	87
302	(4)	121110-	CULTURE VULTURE 160 (C,G,S) (C Wright) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	● 99
303	(1)	11111-	MUSICALE 175 (D,F,G) (R Sangster) H Cecil 9-0	Pat Eddery	98
304	(3)	521-	OUMALDAAYA 160 (D,G) (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0	W Carson	71
305	(5)	211-	ROSE INDIEN 188 (D,F) (Ecurie Fustok) M Moubarak 9-0	L Dettori	82
306	(6)	3-	WIEDNIU 159 (H De Kwiatkowski) Lord Huntingdon 9-0	M Roberts	58

BETTING: 5-4 Musicale, 9-4 Culture Vulture, 11-2 Rose Indien, 13-2 Central City, 10-1 Oumaldaaya, 14-1 Wiedniu.

1991: SHADAYID 9-0 W Carson (8-11 fav) J Dunlop 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

CENTRAL CITY beat Sylvan Sabre 1½l in 5-runner Salisbury (5f, good) stakes race on penultimate start. CULTURE VULTURE beat Hatoof sh hd in 14-runner group I Prix Marcel Boussac at Longchamp (1m, good to soft) on penultimate start; earlier 1l 2nd of 14 to Marling in group III Queen Mary at Royal Ascot (5f, good) with CENTRAL CITY nk 3rd. MUSICALE easily beat Mystery Play 1½l in group III Rockfel Stakes at Newmarket (7f, good to firm); previously beat Mesaafi 1l in 5-runner group III Prestige Stakes at Goodwood (7f, good). OUMALDAAYA beat Portree 1l at Newmarket (7f, good). ROSE INDIEN beat Enaya 1l at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). WIEDNIU 6l 3rd of 21 to Katakana in maiden here (6f, good).

Selection: CULTURE VULTURE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
H Cecil	26	75	34.7	S Cauthen	33	165	20.0
P Chapple-Hyam	3	9	33.3	D Holland	6	32	18.8
W Haggas	3	12	25.0	Pat Eddery	40	236	16.9
B Hills	19	154	12.3	W Carson	37	232	15.9
P Cole	13	113	11.5	M Roberts	28	193	14.5
J Berry	4	36	11.1	T Quinn	19	140	13.6

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.40 NEWBURY TRADE STANDS HANDICAP

BBC2

(£5,020: 5f 34yd) (12 runners)

401	(10)	450030-	BOLD LEZ 169 (CD,F,G) (Ansells of Watford) M Haynes 5-10-0	J Williams	92
402	(7)	130206-	CHOIR PRACTICE 265 (D,F,G) (T Cheshire) W Haggas 5-9-7	L Piggott	90
403	(5)	66411-4	STACK ROCK 20 (F,G) (Castle Racing) E Alston 5-9-5	K Fallon	91
404	(4)	202300-	PRENONAMOSS 174 (D,F) (Mrs W Oram) D Arbuthnot 4-9-5	T Quinn	93
405	(3)	052005-	LOVE LEGEND 153 (D,F,G) (G Thompson) D Arbuthnot 7-9-3	A Munro	—
406	(11)	64/0000-	TOUCH OF WHITE 228 (D,F,G) (L Elinas) J Banks 6-9-2	L Newton (5)	—
407	(6)	212226-	TINO TERE 181 (D,F,G) (B Durkin) J Berry 3-9-1	Pat Eddery	90
408	(9)	300010-	AUGHFAD 164 (CD,F,G,S) (M Mac Carthy) T Casey 6-8-12	J Reid	95
409	(12)	00000-0	MIAMI BANKER 21 (B,CD,G,S) (J Amaces) W Muir 6-8-10	M Roberts	● 99
410	(8)	400254-	MACFARLANE 164 (D,G,S) (P F-Godley) M Fetherston-Godley 4-8-6	W Carson	95
411	(2)	400050-	SO RHYTHMICAL 164 (D,F,G,S) (Miss C Barrow) G Eden 8-8-3	N Carlisle	93
412	(1)	000101	MISDEMEANOURS GIRL 13 (D,G,S) (M Michaels) M Channon 4-7-8	B Doyle (5)	95

BETTING: 11-2 Stack Rock, 6-1 Tino Tere, 15-2 Choir Practice, 8-1 Macfarlane, 10-1 Prenonamoss, Love Legend, So Rhythmical, 12-1 Bold Lez, 14-1 Aughfad, Miami Banker, 16-1 Misdemeanours Girl, 33-1 Touch Of White.

1991: BOLD LEZ 4-9-8 B Raymond (12-1) M Haynes 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOLD LEZ ¾l 3rd of 23 to Gilt Throne in Ascot (5f, good) handicap with MACFARLANE 12l 17th, AUGHFAD 21st and MIAMI BANKER 22nd. CHOIR PRACTICE 3l 6th of 11 to Terrhars in handicap over course and distance (good to firm) with AUGHFAD (9lb better off) 4½l 9th. STACK ROCK ¾l 4th of 9 to Fylde Flyer in Doncaster (6f, good) listed race. LOVE LEGEND 3l 5th of 20 to Spaniards Close in Doncaster (5f, good to soft) handicap. TINO TERE 6¾l 6th of 11 to Magic Ring in group III Cornwallis Stakes at Ascot (5f, good). MACFARLANE 5l 4th of 14 to Terrhars in Salisbury (5f, good) handicap with AUGHFAD 10l 12th and MIAMI BANKER 6l 4th. MISDEMEANOURS GIRL beat Drum Sergeant 1l at Beverley (5f, good).

Selection: BOLD LEZ

4.10 STROUD GREEN HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,175: 1m, str) (18 runners)

501	(8)	1-	SHARP PRINCE 171 (S) (S Crown) H Cecil 9-7	Pat Eddery	80
502	(14)	531212-	JAIRZINHO 145 (D,F,G) (B Nielsen) R Hannon 9-7	R Perham (5)	87
503	(1)	223-	AMAZE 213 (Lady K Philips) Lady Herries 9-4	S Whitworth	80
504	(11)	2216-	BOLD STROKE 181 (D,F) (T Wilson) J Dunlop 9-2	B Raymond	83
505	(13)	10-1	BIG LEAP 20 (F,G) (Ecurie Fustok) M Moubarak 9-1	L Dettori	● 99
506	(7)	032521-	CONFRONTER 151 (S) (Y Nasib) P Cole 8-9	T Quinn	89
507	(5)	01160-3	BY HAND 49 (BF,F) (Mrs M Haggas) W Haggas 8-8	L Piggott	89
508	(3)	0115-	LOBINDA 167 (D,F,S) (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 8-8	J Reid	92
509	(15)	21606-	ROCKY WATERS 168 (F) (K Higson) G Lewis 8-8	B Rouse	91
510	(4)	633-	MAJOR BUGLER 153 (M Kerr-Dineen) G Balding 8-6	J Williams	87
511	(2)	31-	SALISONG 164 (G) (Mrs M Arbib) P Cole 8-6	C Rutter	84
512	(6)	801-	KHAZAR 164 (F) (S Manana) M Prescott 8-4	C Nutter	84
513	(9)	401400-	MOGWAI 151 (G) (A Pye-Jeary) R Johnson Houghton 8-3	Paul Eddery	89
514	(12)	022-	CONSTRUCTIVIST 148 (Dein Ltd) B Hills 8-2	D Holland	80
515	(18)	014020-	VANBOROUGH LAD 153 (G,S) (Mrs M Day) M Haynes 8-2	D Biggs (3)	87
516	(10)	24-2512	EASTLEIGH 20 (J Bigg) R Hollinshead 8-0	W Carson	98
517	(17)	023-	SHAKREEN 178 (Ali K Al Jafleh) Mrs L Piggott 7-13	A Munro	86
518	(16)	302100-	MISS DOODY 208 (V,F) (V Herridge) M Channon 7-8	B Doyle (5)	94

BETTING: 9-2 Sharp Prince, 6-1 Jairzinho, 8-1 Big Leap, 10-1 Confronter, 12-1 Eastleigh, Shakreen, 14-1 Bold Stroke, Salisong, 16-1 By Hand, Amaze, 20-1 Major Bugler, Lobinda, 25-1 others.

1991: SWIFT ROMANCE 7-12 G Bardwell (33-1) B Millman 24 ran

FORM FOCUS

SHARP PRINCE beat Spanish Miner 1½l in 20-runner Chepstow (7f, good to soft) maiden with KHAZAR (17lb better off) 5½l 7th. JAIRZINHO 1½l 2nd of 18 to Jape in group II Premio Guido Berardelli at Capannelle (1m 2f, heavy).
AMAZE 6l 3rd of 18 to Snow Forest in Lingfield (7f, good to firm) maiden. BIG LEAP beat EASTLEIGH (5lb better off) 2½l in 21-runner Doncaster (7f, good) handicap. CONFRONTER beat Battle Colours 6l in 20-runner Folkestone (6f, soft) maiden. MAJOR BUGLER 10l 3rd of 21 to Berseto in Doncaster (7f, good to soft) maiden. SALISONG beat Ripsnorter 2½l in 11-runner Salisbury (7f, good) maiden.

Selection: JAIRZINHO

4.40 THATCHAM HANDICAP (£3,980: 2m) (19 runners)

601	(4)	531360-	HAITHAM 174 (F,G) (Exors of N Barnes) R Akehurst 5-10-0	L Piggott	89
602	(18)	44-4231	ARMY OF STARS 13 (F,G,S) (Army of Stars P'ship) C Brittain 7-9-7	M Roberts	● 99
603	(7)	31520/0-	BUONARROTI 6J (G) (Spacesage Plastics Ltd) J Old 5-9-4	B Raymond	—
604	(16)	115610-	BRANDON PRINCE 174 (B,CD,F,G) (R Michaelson) I Balding 4-9-1	J Reid	89
605	(1)	115220-	BEEBOB 29J (G) (D Johnson) M Pipe 4-8-11	Paul Eddery	89
606	(2)	011212-	SATIN LOVER 154 (D,F,G) (Normandy D'ments) R Akehurst 4-8-11	S Cauthen	93
607	(3)	321301-	MOVING OUT 16J (D,S) (F Salman) M Prescott 4-8-11	A Munro	93
608	(15)	6/03450-	WIDE SUPPORT 41J (S) (K Higson) A Moore 7-8-10	B Rouse	—
609	(10)	131110-	SUBSONIC 154 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs H Heinz) J Dunlop 4-8-9	J Williams	91
610	(13)	61433-0	FARSI 21 (F,G) (J Bower) R Hollinshead 4-8-8	W Carson	96
611	(9)	16101-4	SHOOFE 13 (D,F,G,S) (A Al Jafleh) D Morley 4-8-8	L Dettori	92
612	(14)	216414-	GO SOUTH 69J (B,D,F,G,S) (R Joachim) J Jenkins 8-8-5	Pat Eddery	90
613	(8)	01/3320-	BLUSHING BELLE 133 (S) (S Crown) P Cole 4-8-3	T Quinn	81
614	(19)	051040-	BEAUCHAMP FIZZ 35J (F) (F Kalla) N Callaghan 4-8-1	D Holland	96
615	(12)	0//40-00	HONEY DANCER 21 (C,D,F,S) (A Sofroniou) Miss A Whitfield 8-7-11	N Adams	92
616	(6)	02300-0	PRINCE SOBUR 21 (S) (C Buttery) M Blanchard 6-7-7	N Carlisle	84
617	(17)	05505-6	CRABBY BILL 7 (V) (Financial Collections) Miss B Sanders 5-7-7	B Doyle (5)	80
618	(11)	220230-	SONIC SIGNAL 155 (F,G) (B Saumtally) M Haynes 6-7-7	D Biggs (3)	74
619	(5)	30414-0	PATROCLUS 21 (F,S) (Miss J Newell) R Voorspuy 7-7-7	S Dawson	65

BETTING: 11-2 Army Of Stars, 6-1 Subsonic, 8-1 Beebob, Satin Lover, Go South, 10-1 Farsi, Shoofe, 14-1 Brandon Prince, 16-1 Buonarroti, Haitham, Beauchamp Fizz, 20-1 others

1991: SHAMBO 4-9-6 M Roberts (100-30) C Brittain 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARMY OF STARS beat Gulf Palace 7l at Warwick (1m 7f, soft) with SHOOFE (8lb better off) 8l 4th. BEEBOB hd 2nd of 9 to Ilqan in Doncaster (1m 6f 132yd, good to firm) on penultimate start.
SATIN LOVER ¾l 2nd of 18 to Royal Standard in Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to soft) handicap with GO SOUTH (9lb better off) 2½l 4th, SUBSONIC (3lb better off) 13l 7th, MOVING OUT 17th. MOVING OUT beat Bridge Player 4l in 14-runner Southwell (AW, 2m) handicap. SUBSONIC beat Pipistrelle 1½l in 8-runner Pontefract (2m 2f, firm) handicap on penultimate start. FARSI 9l 8th of 18 to Coleridge in Doncaster (2m 2f, good) handicap with HONEY DANCER 18l 12th, PATROCLUS 7l 14th and PRINCE SOBUR 2l 15th. GO SOUTH beat Bardolph 2½l in 22-runner Newmarket (2m 2f, good to firm) handicap with FARSI ¾l 3rd. HONEY DANCER 22l 13th, BRANDON PRINCE 1l 15th, below-form HAITHAM 2l 17th.

Selection: GO SOUTH

AYR

MANDARIN	THUNDERER
2.00 Beachy Head.	2.00 Petosku.
2.30 Way Of Life.	2.30 Killula King.
3.00 King's Curate.	3.00 King's Curate.
3.30 Granville Again.	3.30 FIDWAY (nap).
4.00 Pamber Priory.	4.00 Manhattan Chase.
4.30 Dale Park.	4.30 Gospel Rock.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 WAY OF LIFE.

GOING: GOOD (WITH GOOD TO FIRM PATCHES) SIS

2.00 KYLESTROME HOTEL AYR FUTURE CHAMPIONS NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,990: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1	221411	CELTIC BREEZE 18 (V,C,G,S) (H Gething) M Naughton 9-11-6	J Callaghan	92
2	23-2045	BASSO PROFUNDO 27 (Mrs L Jocey) W Reed 5-11-2	T Reed	54
3	5/0P	GRAAL LEGEND 93 (F Scotto) W A Stephenson 7-11-2	C Grant	—
4	6	LOVING OMEN 18 (Mrs F Buchanan) Miss Z Green 5-11-2	P Niven	—
5	302120	PETOSKU 13 (S) (F Mills) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-2	C Llewellyn	95
6	11	BEACHY HEAD 34 (C,G,S) (G Reed) C Thornton 4-10-13	D Wilkinson	● 99
7		CHARMING GALE (J Bradburne) Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-11	Mr J Bradburne	—
8	05-S00	MISS EMO 221 (Mrs S Bradburne) Mrs S Bradburne 5-10-11	P Williams (7)	—
9	0-P00UP	TAUVALERA 29 (Mrs M Swindlehurst) D Swindlehurst 5-10-11	Mr D Swindlehurst	—

BETTING: 4-5 Beachy Head, 7-2 Petosku, 9-2 Celtic Breeze, 10-1 Basso Profundo, 12-1 Loving Omen, 16-1 others

1991: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

2.30 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TROPHY

(Novices handicap chase: £2,765: 2m) (6 runners)

1	6F4F3F	KILLULA KING 35 (P Piller) W A Stephenson 5-11-12	C Grant	83
2	013062	WAY OF LIFE 6 (D,G) (T Hemmings) S Mellor 7-11-7	S Earle	● 99
3	60103/-2	REGENT CROSS 29 (F) (Miss E Reed) W Reed 7-11-6	T Reed	77
4	P-2U454	WAYSIDE BOY 18 (E Madden) G Richards 7-11-3	G McCourt	87
5	2450U5	KILMOND WOOD 13 (F) (G Fenwick) G Moore 7-11-0	N Bentley (7)	81
6	6/00-P50	IRON PRINCE 29 (Mrs J Stone) K Oliver 6-10-10	M Moloney	—

BETTING: 2-1 Regent Cross, 11-4 Killula King, 9-2 Way Of Life, 11-2 Wayside Boy, 10-1 Kilmond Wood, 14-1 Iron Prince.

1991: ARCTIC TEAL 7-11-10 M Richards (9-2) O Sherwood 7 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
S Mellor	6	21	28.6	R Dunwoody	4	15	26.7
G Moore	29	127	22.8	G McCourt	21	80	26.3
G Richards	51	245	20.8	P Niven	20	108	18.5
Mrs S Bradburne	9	54	16.7	Mr J Bradburne	7	42	16.7
W A Stephenson	17	106	16.0	G Bradley	4	24	16.7
N Tinkler	7	45	15.6	B Storey	26	162	16.0

3.00 FRIENDLY HOTELS PLC STATION HOTEL AYR NOVICES CHASE

(£3,746: 3m 110yd) (7 runners)

1	2F1311	GREY MINSTREL 18 (C,G,S) (J Madeley) Denys Smith 8-11-10	P Waggott (7)	90
2	11PB0F	MISTER TICKLE 27 (D,F,G,S) (C McDonagh) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-10	C Llewellyn	91
3	111140	RAGOREY 46 (D,F,G) (T M McDonagh Ltd) W A Stephenson 7-11-10	C Grant	90
4	P240U1	GENERAL HARMONY 13 (B,D,G) (G Jennings) Miss G Jennings 9-11-8	Mr S Lyons (7)	80
5	141-212	KING'S CURATE 78 (CD,S) (C Ellis) S Mellor 8-11-6	S Earle	● 99
6	5P-3620	INTARSIA 44 (J Hinchliffe) K Oliver 8-11-5	T Reed	82
7	6-35504	REGAL ESTATE 28 (S) (G Denney) D Moffatt 8-11-5	D J Moffatt (7)	84

BETTING: 4-6 King's Curate, 7-2 Grey Minstrel, 6-1 Ragorey, 7-1 Mister Tickle, 12-1 General Harmony, 16-1 Intarsia, 25-1 Regal Estate

1991: ESHA NESS 8-11-10 M Pitman (7-4 fav) Mrs J Pitman 11 ran

3.30 SCOTTISH CHAMPION HURDLE (Grade II: £7,644: 2m) (6 runners)

1	444114	FIDWAY 31 (D,F,G,S) (A Coley) T Thomson Jones 7-11-10	S Smith Eccles	● 99
2	1-1111F	GRANVILLE AGAIN 31 (D,F,G,S) (E Scarth) M Pipe 6-11-10	P Scudamore	98
3	1-13111	JINXY JACK 21F (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs B McKinney) G Richards 8-11-6	G McCourt	94
4	25562F	MARLINGFORD 34 (D,G,S) (J Law) Mrs J Jordan 5-11-6	D Morris	68
5	231125	CROSSHOT 8 (CD,F,G,S) (R McDonald) R McDonald 5-11-2	K Jones	67
6	1-02200	WINNIE THE WITCH 31 (D,F,G,S) (Paddocks Ltd) K Bridgwater 8-10-11	D Bridgwater	93

BETTING: 11-10 Granville Again, 6-4 Fidway, 6-1 Jinxy Jack, 10-1 Winnie The Witch, 25-1 Crosshot, 33-1 Marlingford.

1991: PRECIOUS BOY 5-11-2 L Wyer (9-2) M O'Neill 5 ran

4.00 GEORGE GRAHAM MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,532: 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

1	1/PF603	IN THE FASHION 7 (D,F,G) (Mrs V Ogden) R Tate 10-11-10	A Orkney	82
2	25U054	KIRSTY'S BOY 23 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs K McClelland) Miss L Perratt 9-11-10	L O'Hara	98
3	1FP1F1	PAMBER PRIORY 22 (D,G,S) (D Makins) T Thomson Jones 9-11-8	D Murphy	● 98
4	F11354	HE WHO DARES WINS 45 (D,F,G) (I Cheesbrough) W A Stephenson 9-11-2	C Grant	92
5	12P-P1P	MANHATTAN CHASE 22 (CD,S) (P Hinchliff) G Richards 9-11-1	G McCourt	92
6	34FU32	RUPERT STANLEY 24 (R Wilson) D Clyde 8-10-6	—	—
7	2P13P5	BLACK SPUR 18 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Gibson) J Charlton 10-10-6	B Storey	90
8	243P42	MAJIC RAIN 20 (D,G) (North East Racing Club Ltd) G Coatsworth 7-10-0	D J Moffatt (7)	—

Long handicap: Majic Rain 9-5

BETTING: 9-4 Pamber Priory, 4-1 In The Fashion, 5-1 Manhattan Chase, 8-1 He Who Dares Wins, Majic Rain, 10-1 Kirsty's Boy, 14-1 Black Spur, 25-1 Rupert Stanley

1991: BIRLING JACK 10-11-5 G McCourt (7-2) J Edwards 8 ran

4.30 AYRSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,705: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1	15-3550	BOARDING SCHOOL 29 (S) (R Green) C Parker 5-11-12	B Storey	● 99
2	144341	SWEET CITY 34 (CD,S) (W Peacock) G Richards 7-11-4	D J Barry (7)	97
3	3/2P0P-5	MILS MIJ 20 (D,F,S) (J Hurst) T Cuthbert 7-10-13	Carol Cuthbert (7)	98
4	401000	KANNDABIL 3 (B,S) (N McAndrews) N Tinkler 5-10-12	G Bradley	98
5	354-431	DALE PARK 4 (C,G,S) (Full Circle Plc) N Tinkler 6-10-3	G McCourt	97
6	13-1FFF	GOSPEL ROCK 46 (F,S) (Lord Zetland) P Calver 8-10-0	T Reed	91

BETTING: 9-4 Sweet City, 7-2 Dale Park, 9-2 Boarding School, 6-1 Mils Mij, 7-1 Kanndabil, 10-1 Gospel Rock

1991: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

GOLF

Luck turns full swing for Cooper and coach

FROM MEL WEBB IN JERSEY

WHO needs Augusta when you can be in Jersey in the springtime? The sun was warm on everybody's backs at La Moye yesterday, and it did nobody more good than Derrick Cooper, who responded by producing his best round for many a long day.

The heavyweight from Warrington, one of the *bon viveurs* of the European Tour who believes in keeping the cup of life well topped up, attributed his round of 66, six under par, to three things — a return to school, a small triumph claimed in the company of a friend, and a severe blow in the wallet the day before the tournament started.

Cooper has not had the best of starts to the season; his best finish in five Tour events this year is a tie for 27th, which does not keep such as Cooper in the style to which he would like he and his family to become accustomed.

There was no answer but to put himself back under the magisterial eye of Bob Torrance, his coach, whose only burden in life seems to be that he is occasionally described by those who should know better as a guru.

One hesitates to use the word, conjuring up as it does a picture of a geriatric Indian gent dressed in a sheet and surrounded by 1960s pop stars. Torrance is neither geriatric nor Indian, and has never been seen in public clad in the bed linen; but he is certainly a gentleman, and a scholar, too, in his uncanny ability to unlock the mystical secrets of an ailing golf swing.

Cooper has spent two prolonged sessions with Torrance, and was told by he who shall be obeyed that the key lay, simply, in reducing an overlong backswing. Thus encouraged, he emerged a more optimistic man, and immediately joined his pal Richard Boxall in winning the Sunningdale Foursomes, that much-loved hybrid that brings together the best in British golf, amateur and professional, male and female, and any combination of the four.

"I feel much more comfortable with my swing now," he said. "I feel as though I'm beginning to get it right." And this after a round which contained eight birdies, with only a couple of bogeys to bring his mind back on the job at hand.

He went into the tournament with the memory of a tanning to the tune of £300 he and Boxall had received the previous day at the hands of their fellow-professional, Ross McFarlane, and Martin Devetta, a three-handicap member of Sunningdale. Something had to be done to put the Cooper balance-sheet right.

He had the best of all possible starts when he sank a 15-foot putt for a birdie at the 1st, and got another at the long 2nd. He dropped shots at the 4th and 5th but got them back at the 6th and 8th.

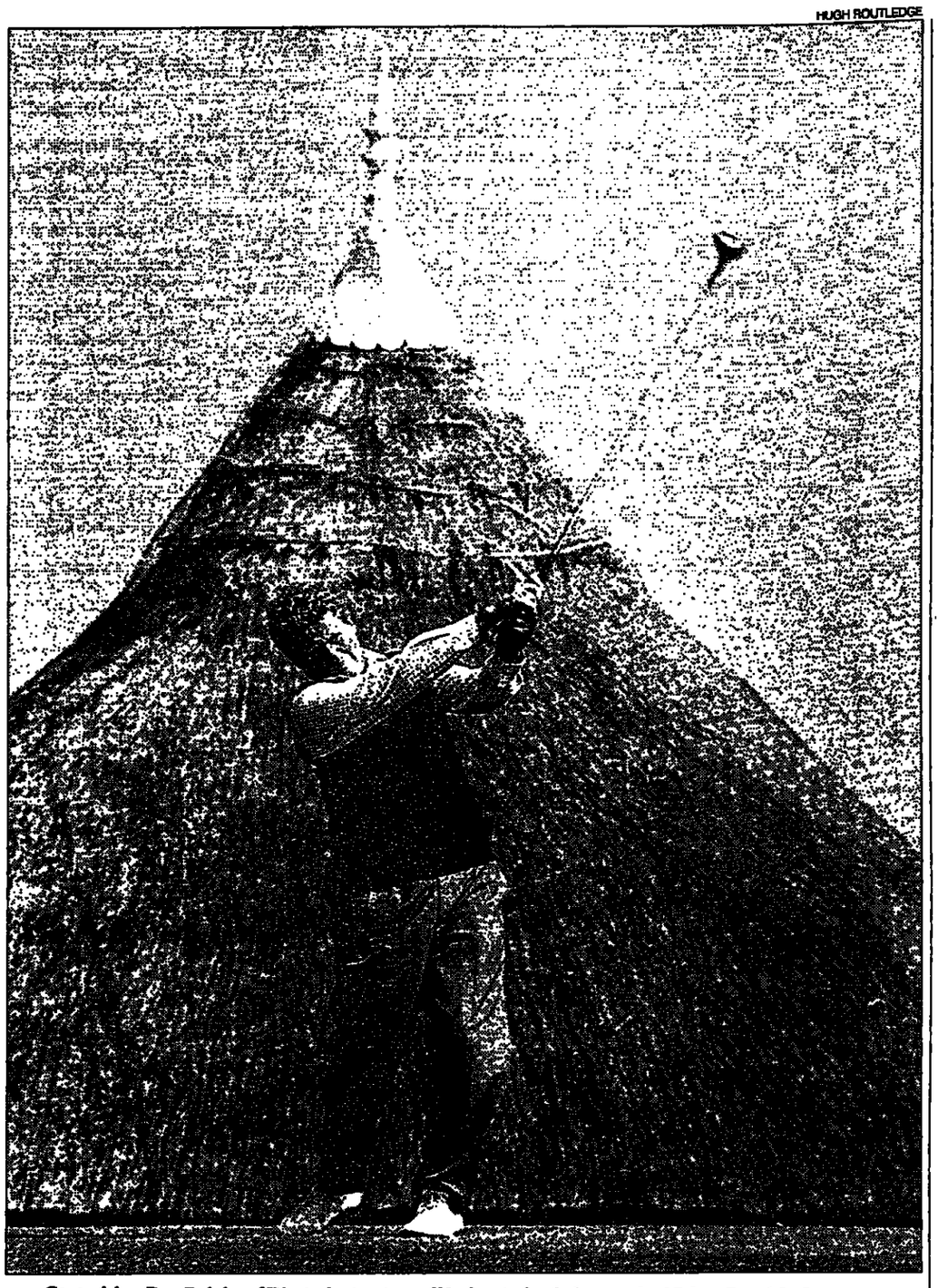
Coming home was a breeze, with four birdies, including a 20-foot putt at the 13th and a 15-footer at the last. Getting it right? Heaven knows what he will shoot when he finally cracks it.

☐ **Daiwacho, Japan:** Yoshikazu Yokoshima produced a course record-equalling eight-under-par 63, including two eagles, yesterday to take a one-stroke lead after the first round of the a men's open. The winner of 11 tournaments, Yokoshima, aged 40, also had four birdies as he tied the course record set by Masahiro Kuramoto of Japan in 1988. *(AFP)*

RESULTS FROM JERSEY

EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES: 66: D Cooper. 67: M James, P Smith. 68: W Longmuir. 69: D Silva (Por), N Briggs, R Chapman, P Baker, D Gilford, D J Russell, D Smyth, B Gallacher, S Torrance, S Bowman (US), D Prosser. 70: J Heggerty, D Williams, J Rutledge, W Stephens, H-P Thül (Ger), J Robson, R Karlsson (Swe), A Hare, J Robinson, R Boxall, P Broadhurst, R Lee. 71: R Claydon, S Hamill, P Lawrie, T Levet (Fr), G Evans, C Mason, P Way, M Poxon, P Le Chevalier. 72: A Murray, O Vincent III (US), M King, S Bennett, J van de Velde (Fr). 73: J Sewell, B Marchbank, M Sunesson (Swe), W Guy. 74: K Trimble (Aus), P Walton. 75: J O'Leary, L Tinkler (Aus), A Chandler, D Terblanche (SA). 76: J Hawksworth. 77: M Allen (US), R McFarlane, B Barnes.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Cover drive: Ron Bulgin, of Westminster, tees off in front of a shelter on the 17th at Royal St George's

Eastbourne upset balance of power

BY A CORRESPONDENT

EASTBOURNE, a marginal on which the politicians were keeping a wary eye late last night, produced the first big upset yesterday afternoon, with their cliff-hanging 3-2 victory over the holders and hot favourites, Shrewsbury, in the Halford Hewitt Cup, which is being contested over Royal St George's at Sandwich, and Royal Cinque Ports at nearby Deal.

A mammoth total of 640 old boys, in teams of ten, from 64 public schools throughout Britain are competing in one of the most prestigious events on the amateur calendar, instigated at Deal 68 years ago.

Over the past 12 years, Shrewsbury have been finalists five times and winners twice, and they started their defence of the title with 36 points, on top of the table, compared to Eastbourne's two.

Eastbourne opened with wins in their first two matches, but lost their final two out in the country. That meant their third pairing, of Robert Meaby and Christopher Walker, was last to finish. The pair were dormy two against Hilldnep and Mawdsley, but lost the 17th and at the 18th both teams missed 12-foot putts to halve in bogey-fives and give Eastbourne the decisive third point.

Michael Reece, the Rossall captain, marked his 35th consecutive appearance and more than 120 matches in the cup with a win for himself and his team over Dulwich.

Results, page 37

Caught up in a magical and revealing world

BY BRIAN CLARKE

Lefty Krey, the famous American angler and casting instructor, tells a wonderful story about a demonstration of fly-fishing that he once gave.

With a single switch of his rod, he drove an entire, 30-yard fly-line to its full extent, out on to the grass in front of him. The spectators to either side gasped. With a single back-cast, he then lifted all of the line in front of him out in a straight line on to the grass behind. Another gasp.

He rolled the line to the left and he rolled the line to the right. He executed steeple casts, Z-casts and trick casts of a dozen kinds. Gasp followed gasp followed gasp. Finally, Lefty removed the butt-piece of his rod completely and proceeded to repeat the entire performance using the top half alone. Stunned silence.

"OK," he said after this mesmerising display. "Anyone got any questions?"

A pause. Then a man in the crowd stepped forward. "Tell us," he said in a coaxing stage whisper, "where did you get the magic rod?"

The story preserves a great piece of humour, and yet it conveys a truth that will be recognised by anyone who writes about fishing, or teaches it, or is perceived in any way at all to be successful at it. By far the most common question that comes through the mail or is asked on the bankside is the one that seeks the short cut; that tries to winkle out some imagined piece of magic; that asks the dressing of the "secret" fly.

How a simple home-made aquarium can take the secret out of successful fly-fishing

There are few short cuts in fly-fishing, but there is one. It is a short cut that will save years of mere hopeful presence at the waterside; that will teach a great deal about flies and the ways they might be fished; and that will provide anyone with a serious interest in improving his or her fishing with many hours of added fascination without even leaving home.

It is to make a small aquarium, to stock it not with fish but with aquatic insects, and to watch how they behave. It is 21 years ago this year that I made my own such aquarium; and it is 20 years since, by applying what I learned, I saw my catch from lakes increase, season on season, by around 600 per cent.

There is no magic involved and no special knowledge is required. Running water is not necessary because insects that live in still water are in the main similar to those that live in running water. Almost any kind of receptacle can be used and, for what it is worth, my own "aquarium" was a clear plastic cake box about 12 inches square and five inches deep, that I filched from a kitchen cupboard.

I simply went along to a nearby gravel pit, placed some sand and silt from its bed into the bottom of the box, put a large stone in the centre to create an island, and then slowly filled the box to within half an inch of its lip.

While the contents were settling, I trawled along the bottom of the lake and among the weeds with my daughter's minnow net, and dumped anything from it that moved into a jam jar. I then sorted out a few of all the various life forms I had and placed these into the aquarium. A couple of sprigs of oxygenating weed from a pet shop to keep the water vital, a separate bottle of water to top up the aquarium as the water in it evaporated, and the job was done.

The first few trawls of the net will produce many of the insects that lake trout eat, and on which so many artificial flies are modelled. They will also dispel any disquiet that lakes might be filled with wriggly horrors and show aquatic insects — unlike many of their land-based brethren — to be fascinating and often beautiful creatures.

Those most likely to be found are olive nymphs, damselfly nymphs, corixidae, freshwater shrimps, alder larvae and sedge larvae — complete with cases of sand and cut leaves — midge larvae and pupae; and freshwater snails which, for all their lack of charisma, will creep slowly around the inner surfaces of the glass, keeping them clean and algae-free.

The mere act of lifting the minnow net from the water will add flesh and meaning to the Latin names so often unnecessarily used in angling books, and will clarify much in their sometimes confusing texts. It will show in an instant what aquatic creatures actually look like (and how awful are most of the imitations sold in the shops). The study of them as they bustle about their daily lives inside the glass only inches away from the end of the nose will give the clearest insight into how they move and hatch and die — and so how artificial flies should be moved and fished on the end of the line.

For those who tie their own flies, the aquarium provides nature's own models for copying; and for those who do not, it will provide the basis for making far more discriminating choices when artificials are being bought.

The aquarium will give other things, as well. The metamorphosis of the darting olive nymph into the diaphanous and elegant winged fly, the hatching of the midge pupa into the often beautifully coloured adult, the struggles of the corixa as it darts to the water's surface, collects a bubble of air and then labours mightily to carry it to the bottom to breathe, will absorb and fascinate, give even a sense of privilege and wonder.

More practically, the aquarium will give a new sense of confidence when choosing and fishing a fly, especially when the trout are rising and so are known to be present and feeding. It will bring an end to the desperation of lucky dip and "what did you get it on?" and "is it true they want something with silver in it today?"

Over all, a profound sense of satisfaction will emerge not only from the fact that fish *are* being caught, but from a knowledge of *why* they are being caught. This, without doubt, is the greatest benefit of all. It is at this point, and not with any dazzling rod or "secret" fly, that the real magic of fly-fishing begins.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Bromsgrove's late run stirs Hope

BY WALTER GAMMIE

FUELLED by six wins in six matches, Bromsgrove Rovers have swept into contention to continue to make the Beazer Homes League the most fiercely contested of the three feeder leagues to the GM Vauxhall Conference.

A showdown for Bromsgrove next Thursday at **Dover Athletic**, who lead the division by two points, having played a game more, may prove decisive but **Bashley**, and **VS Rugby** await any slips.

Bromsgrove have been negotiating with the Football Trust to try to gain help in raising the £30,000 needed to put up new terracing behind one of the goals to meet the demands of the Conference. "It must be done before May 9," Bobby Hope, the Bromsgrove manager, said. "The deadline used to be July 31 but I think one or two teams in the past conned the league. They found the work had not been done, when all the places and fixtures had been decided."

"I'm not a betting man," Chris Kinnear, the Dover manager, said. "I wouldn't put any money on us, or any of us, in fact." Dover's 3-0 win over **Gravesend and Northfleet** on Tuesday, with two goals from Mark Rees, signed from Aldershot last week, spelled relegation for their fellow Kent side.

"Dover were my tips before the season," Hope said. "They're a very experienced side. They are very strong defensively and they've got forwards who can pinch goals. They are a very hard nut to crack."

Four wins last week, including a 1-0 win at Bashley on Thursday, were vital for Bromsgrove, although injuries to important midfield players, Martin O'Connor and Paul Webb, at Corby Town last Saturday have cast a shadow. "We play well as a team," Hope said. "The players who have come in when needed have not let the side down and I think that's been a big plus for us. One or two lads have remained loyal to us and been prepared to stay part of a squad. We've also got a few players who can play in several positions, which has to be part of non-League football because of the financial side."

Woking will be presented with the Diadora League trophy at tomorrow's home match against **Bishop's Stortford**. They clinched the title with a 3-0 win at **Windsor and Eton** last Saturday and drew 3,073 people for a celebratory homecoming against **Kingstonian** on Tuesday.

Colchester United travel to **Macclesfield Town** tonight for the second leg of their Vauxhall FA Trophy semi-final with a 3-0 first-leg lead. **Marine**, the HFS Loans League side and **Witton Albion** start the second leg of their semi-final tomorrow at 2-2.

HOCKEY

Sutton Coldfield will be banking on reserves

ON PAPER, the AEWHA Cup semi-finals at Milton Keynes today seem rather lopsided (Alix Ramsay writes). In one match Slough, three times Typhoo League champions take on rank outsiders in Blueharts, while the other game, between Hightown and Sutton Coldfield promises to be a much closer affair.

Sutton Coldfield will be without their Great Britain trio of Jane Sixsmith, Lisa Bayliss and Mandy Pickles, who are in the United States on a pre-Olympic tour, but feel they have the strength in depth to carry them through.

Their confidence is high, as befits the defending champions, who will be competing in the European Cup Winners' Cup next week.

Hightown have had injury problems because of the strains of the county championships and England's training matches in Spain last weekend. Tina Cullen and Carolyn Reid have recovered after their trip to Terrassa and only Chris Cook remains doubtful after a knee operation.

Last time the two sides met in the league, Hightown came out on top by 2-0. The Liverpool side believes that if it can hit the same vein of form and confidence again, it will book its place in the final tomorrow.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Temp °C	Last snow fall
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	95	150	good	open	sunny	0	5/4
(Good skiing on relatively uncrowded pistes)							
Chamonix	20	380	mixed	open	fine	0	5/4
(Upper slopes good)							
Chatel	20	130	mixed	closed	fine	1	5/4
(Lower runs at Super Chatel very poor. Skiing at Pre-La-Joux)							
Flaine	85	295	mixed	open	fine	1	5/4
(Higher levels still good, wet lower down)							
Méribel	20	170	mixed	poor	fine	1	8/4
(Lower runs suffering. Upper sections reamain good)							
Tignes	120	175	good	open	sunny	1	7/4
(Good skiing at all levels)							
AUSTRIA							
Brand	30	210	good	open	cloudy	2	5/4
(Good cover on upper pistes. Wet lower down)							
Igls	0	200	mixed	closed	cloudy	8	31/3
(Still good above middle station)							
Solden	0	200	mixed	closed	fine	-1	6/4
(Upper sections still good. Most lifts operating)							
Westendorf	5	170	mixed	closed	sunny	2	6/4
(7 lifts operating on upper sections)							
Zell am See	30	200	good	open	cloudy	1	6/4
(Still very good spring skiing)							
SWITZERLAND							
Crans Montana	5	130	mixed	open	sunny	-2	4/4
(Good skiing on upper runs. Most lifts operating)							
Gstaad	10	90	mixed	poor	sunny	-1	1/4
(Spring snow above middle station. Lower runs difficult)							
Klosters	70	290	good	open	sunny	0	5/4
(Good skiing on spring snow. Resort runs patchy)							
Zermatt	20	180	mixed	open	sunny	-2	5/4
(Packed snow on upper pistes, lower pistes patchy)							
ITALY							
Cortina	35	150	mixed	open	cloudy	2	6/4
(Good skiing overall, though lower runs slushy by afternoon)							
Ortisei	30	110	good	open	sunny	3	7/4
(Good skiing on quiet pistes)							

Supplied by Ski Hotline. L and U refer to lower and upper slopes

TABLE TENNIS

England's first tie is a hard test

THE England men hope to win a medal for the third successive time in the European championships starting in Stuttgart today (Richard Eaton writes). They collected the silver in Paris in 1988 and a bronze in Gothenburg in 1990 with teams billed as England's best since the 1950s.

Now they are arguably even stronger, with the addition of Chen Xinhua, the former Chinese international, who is playing in the European championships for the first time.

The most important group match which Chen, Carl Prean, Alan Cooke and Matthew Syed face may be the first one, tonight, against the Austrians, who possess two former Chinese players, Ding Yi and Qian Qianli.

ENGLAND: Men: C Prean, Chen Xinhua, A Cooke, M Syed. Women: L Lomas A Gordon (Berks), A Holt.

Strung up with Mum and Dad

Alix Ramsay reports from the finals of the Remington family tennis championships

THE family that plays together stays together. That is the theory but when the play involves the national tennis finals of the Remington father and son and mother and daughter championships, family relations can show signs of strain.

The 28 couples were competing for places in the international finals, the Kiam Cup created by Victor Kiam, the man who liked the game so much he bought the tournament.

Competiton between rival families is one thing but there was a certain competitive edge within each doubles team too. Who takes charge? Youth or experience?

David Lloyd has never been known to shirk a challenge in his professional life. He had flown in from the United States fresh from a round of business meetings in order to compete with his 17-year-old son, Scott, and to renew his taste for competitive tennis.

"It is the toughest between a father and son and I try not to get competitive with Scott," he said. "Last year playing in the final in Portugal I hurt my back badly. Scott realised and he started to take over on court and you can see an enormous change in him. It's not just his tennis, he is more mature."

Their semi-final opponents were the Somas from London. Hiralal is a former doubles champion for the South African Tennis Union, so knows a thing or too about the stresses on court. "The problem is when I first played with my sons I was better than them but now they're getting better than me," he says. "I could never tell my older son, Viren, what to do but now with Hitesh we can discuss tactics."

The tactics stood in good sted as they battled to overcome deficits of 5-1 in the first set and 5-2 in the second before beating the Lloyds 7-6, 7-6. They tried to work the same magic in the final but were just ousted by Ray and Paul Ranson, of Sheffield, 7-5, 5-7, 6-2 in an epic final.

Everyone remembers his or her parents doing or saying the wrong thing in public, gaffes that brought not just embarrassment but the end of the world as we knew it during the traumatic teenage years. In front of an eagle-eyed tennis crowd the result can be devastating.

David Lloyd: his son assumed command

"I try not to say anything," Suzie Durham, the youngest competitor at 13years of age, said with diplomacy, belying her years. "There are times when one gets more frustrated and annoyed than when playing with someone you don't know," her mother, Yvonne, said, shedding a little more light on the problem.

But in the end the frustration counted for nothing as the Durhams won the mother-and-daughter title, beating the No. 1 seeds, Joyce and Katie Howden, from Leeds, 7-5, 6-2. If they can preserve the fragile family detente they go through it all again in the international finals in May.

RESULTS: Finals: Father and son: R and P Ranson (Yorkshire) bt H and H Soma (Middlesex), 7-5, 5-7, 6-2. Mother and daughter: Y and S Durham (Sussex) bt J and K Howden (Yorkshire), 7-5, 6-2.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

Barclays League Second division

Tranmere v Middlesbrough

Third division

Stockport v Exeter

Vauxhall FA Trophy Semi-final, second leg

Macclesfield (0) v Colchester (3) (8.0; first-leg score in brackets)

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: Norwich v QPR; Oxford Utd v Crystal Palace.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Darwen v Bacup Borough.

VICTORY SHIELD: Under-15 international: England v Northern Ireland (at Brighton FC, 7.15).

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division play-offs (first of three): Leicester Riders v Worthing Bears (8.0).

JUNIOR MEN'S INTERNATIONAL: England v Belgium (Sutton in Ashfield, 7.0).

HOCKEY

AEWHA CUP: Semi-finals (at Milton Keynes): Sutton Coldfield v Hightown (2.30); Slough v Blueharts (4.30).

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: English national championships (Melton Mowbray).

SQUASH RACKETS: HiTec British Open (Wembley Conference Centre).

SWIMMING: Great Britain club team championships (Sheffield).

European championship plan is revealed

England fans will come under FA's advice in Sweden

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE football authorities have decided not to finance an independent advice centre for the European championship finals in June similar to the one that was so successful at the 1990 World Cup finals which probably helped to curb hooliganism in Italy.

Instead of supporting a centre run by the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), the Football Association will set up its own operation and has invited both the FSA and the National Federation of Supporters Clubs to help staff the offices in Sweden.

The government and the FA do not want a separate advice centre because they believe it will only encourage England supporters without tickets or accommodation to visit Sweden. An FA spokesman said yesterday: "It can only cause complications with other people turn up there.

"Most of the lawlessness at major tournaments comes from groups of independent supporters who are not members of the FA's travel club, which has a membership of 4,500, all of whom have been screened against lists of known trouble-makers."

Despite urging everyone to become members of the travel club, the 4,000-strong FSA knows that many England followers, most of them perfectly respectable, will go to Scandinavia hoping to get tickets on the "black market". The FSA believes it is only reacting to the realities of the situation.

The FSA would like £20,000 to fund and staff centres in Sweden and is now seeking sponsorship, having had an application for money turned down by the Football Trust. Steve Beauchampé, the FSA's international officer, said: "We will definitely have a presence in Sweden even if we have to pay for it out of our own pockets."

Two FSA officials, who visited Sweden last month have secured an office free of charge from the local authorities in Stockholm. They hope to have another in Malmö, where England play their opening two matches. After meetings with representatives of the organising committees and supporters club, they distributed leaflets with details of tickets and accommodation to their members.

In Italy, the FSA centres proved invaluable for supporters as about 2,000 people used the services, staffed by 12 volunteers. Three thousand guidebooks were distributed, football matches were organised and even blood was given by FSA members to help local hospitals.

An independent survey for the Council of Europe carried out by the Centre for Football Research at Leicester University, said the FSA centres in Italy were "a generally well-organised and important initiative". The report, based on replies from 1,457 travel club members, found that 43 per cent thought that the services to the FSA were either "excellent" or "good" with only 24 per cent thinking them either "poor" or "not good".

However, 60 per cent of the same supporters rated the FA's services as either "poor" or "not good", largely because they did not realise that the problems with ticket distribution were the fault of the World Cup organisers and Fifa and not of the national association.

However, Beauchampé added that the FA has little credibility with the average supporter, who only uses the travel club because it is obliged to do so to get tickets. Many people believe that the FA regard supporters as a nuisance.

He said supporters are also upset that the package deals with accommodation arranged by the FA's official operator do not cater for the middle market England followers. Up to 5,000 England supporters are expected to go to Sweden for the eight-nation tournament.

Power play: Michael Stich, the Wimbledon tennis champion, powers his way to a 7-5, 6-2 victory over Anders Jarryd in the Japan Open in Tokyo yesterday

SQUASH RACKETS

Devoy faces same stumbling block in quarter-final

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

SUSAN Devoy's attempt to reclaim the Hi-Tec British Open championship for New Zealand yesterday took on dangerously familiar proportions as Sue Wright, the young British closed champion, who upset her progress in last year's quarter-finals, emerged to challenge her once more at the same stage at Wembley tomorrow.

Wright, aged 21, from Biggin Hill, in Kent, defeated Heather Wallace, of Canada, 9-5, 9-0, 5-9, 9-0, in a 50-minute second-round match on women's day at Lambs Club, London. This time last year she was celebrating her surprise removal of Michelle Martin, of Australia, the eighth seed, the first of three top ten players she defeated coming from behind, before losing the final, with blistered feet, to Lisa Opie.

Opie's return of the title to British tenure for the first time in three decades was almost overshadowed by the astonishing progress of the then thirteenth-seeded Kent girl.

"I am a better player now, more consistent," Wright said yesterday. "I like playing on the Perspex court at Wembley. It suits my slow game. But Susan is such a strong character and she is still world champion while I am world No. 8."

Devoy won 3-1 when they met in the Dutch Open final in December. "But that was American scoring and we went to tie-breaks in the first two games. I learned from that and I thought she was nervous against me."

The seedings suggest that another success over the world champion would bring Wright, seeded eight, once more into confrontation with Martin, promoted to fourth seed and performing well enough yesterday to remove Suzanne Horner, the England No. 4, 9-2, 9-2, 9-1 in just 16 minutes.

But Martin has her own English problems tomorrow with the arrival of Cassandra Jackman. Norfolk's 19-year old junior world champion, in her quarter-final after a 39-minute 6-9, 9-4, 9-4, 9-2, win over the much-improved Linda Charman.

The Australian defeated Jackman the last time they met, in the Malaysian final last August, and with Devoy remains the last of the world's top ten yet to succumb to the increasing severity of the teenager's attack.

Wright defeated Martin again on the way to the Dutch final and may prefer that prospective route towards another British Open final, rather than a clash with the junior world champion.

RESULTS FROM LAMBS CLUB

MEN: First round (England unless stated): J Nicolle bt A Davies (Wales), 9-4, 9-10, 9-2, 9-5; R Norman (NZ) bt D Ryan (Ire), 9-2, 9-2, 7-9, 5-9, 9-1; G Waite (Can) bt B Beeson, 6-9, 9-2, 9-3, 9-3; C Robertson (Aus) bt C Van der Wath (SA), 9-4, 9-4, 9-1; S Parke bt D Meddings, 9-0, 9-2, 7-9, 9-3; B Martin (Aus) bt T Hands, 9-4, 9-2, 9-0; M Maclean (Scot) bt M Carlyon (Aus), 9-7, 9-1, 9-5; C Dittmar (Aus) bt S Meades, 9-3, 9-0, 9-0;

WOMEN: First round: L Irving (Aus) bt S Machie, 10-9, 10-9, 9-3; S FitzGerald (Aus) bt D Holleran (US), 9-3, 9-8, 9-0; M Le Moignan bt B Hoogendoorn (Neth), 10-8, 9-3, 9-2; R Best (Ire) bt N Beumer (Neth), 4-9, 10-8, 9-2, 9-6; L Opie bt T Myllymiemi (Fin), 9-6, 9-2, 9-0; F Geaves bt S Schone (Ger), 9-7, 9-1, 9-2; R Lambourne (Aus) bt J Leatherbarrow, 9-1, 9-0, 9-1. Second round: S Devoy (NZ) bt H Van Hoorn (Neth), 9-3, 9-1, 9-3; S Wright (Eng) bt H Wallace (Can), 9-5, 9-0, 5-9, 9-0, M Martin (Aus) bt S Horner (Eng), 9-2, 9-2, 9-1, C Jackman (Eng) bt L Charman (Eng), 6-9, 9-4, 9-4, 9-2.

YACHTING

An end to French challenge

FROM BOB ROSS IN SAN DIEGO

NEW Zealand, quicker on all but one leg of the course in the breeze of between eight and 11 knots, beat Ville de Paris by the large margin of 3min 30sec off San Diego to ensure her place in the final of the America's Cup challenger elimination series at the expense of her French opponents.

In the other challenger race, Chris Dickson's yacht, Nippon, beat Il Moro di Venezia, skippered by Paul Cayard and already certain of a final place, by 1min 53sec, after gaining the lead on the first run.

In the defenders' series, Dennis Conner's Stars & Stripes lost her second successive race, to the Bill Koch-led syndicate's second yacht America³ and has to win one of her remaining two races to have a chance of making the defenders' final.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: Challengers: Nippon (C Dickson, Japan) bt Il Moro di Venezia (P Cayard, It), 1min 53sec; New Zealand (R Davis) bt Ville de Paris (M Pajot, Fr), 3min 30sec. Progress points: 1, New Zealand, 6pts; 2, Il Moro di Venezia, 5; 3, Ville de Paris, 3; 4, Nippon, 2. Defenders: America³ (B Malgee) bt Stars & Stripes (D Conner), 2min 06sec. Progress points: 1, Kanza (W Koch), 5; 2, Stars & Stripes, 4; 3, America³, 2.

Charles is eased out of contention

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN HYÈRES, FRANCE

LAWRIE Smith and his Soling keel boat crew won the right yesterday to represent Britain at Barcelona, but as they came ashore to celebrate their new found Olympic status the trio ran into the charges of unfair and unsporting behaviour from their two rivals, Glyn Charles and Chris Law.

Smith, who is crewed by Rob Cruikshank and Ossie Stewart, gave up third place in the final fleet race of the French pre-Olympic regatta to wait, with sails flapping, for Charles to arrive at the penultimate mark then herded him into oblivion on the final leg to the finish.

Charles and his crew, who had to count a good position yesterday to finish within the top six nations overall and thus challenge Smith for the Olympic berth in a match race final, was forced down ten places to nineteenth and dropped out of the reckoning.

There is nothing in the rules against such action and it has been a standing tactic employed by leading crews at dinghy championships for as long as game plans have been a part of this sport. However, this did not stop Law, who was forced to retire after suffering a broken spinnaker halyard while leading the Soling race, from denouncing Smith's action as "un-British and unsportsmanlike".

Ironically, Law employed exactly the same tactic at this championship eight years ago to dismiss Colin Simmonds's aspirations for Olympic status. "I am not particularly proud of that and it doesn't mean that I condone that action now," he retorted yesterday when reminded of the way he had won his Olympic position.

Shirley Robertson also confirmed her Olympic status in the Europe class and Barrie Edgington moved a step closer to winning the British windsurfing nomination after chalking up his second win of the series.

RESULTS: Race five: Soling: 1, M Luechan (Austria); 2, M Henriksen (Den); 3, P Thomson (Can). Flying Dutchman: 1, M Nyberg and J Lindell (Swe); J and J Bojsen-Moeller (Denmark); 3, L Doreste and D Manrique (Sp). British: 4, A Stead and P Allen; 5, C Apthorpe and J Lyne. Tornado: 1, C Clement and H Eisenblatter (Fr); 2, J Wolf and C Toeffer (Ger); 3, P Milasto and O Stray (Nor). 470: Men: 1, M Lundgren and U Lagneus (Swe); 2, P Leskinen and M Asmikka (Fin); 3, J Calatat and K Sanchez (Sp). British: 16, I Pinnell and J Simpson; 18, P Brotherton and A Hemmings. 470: Women: 1, S Peters and W Buelte (Ger); 2, S Madsenil and N Haladen (Den); 3, P Hardwiger and C Pinnow (Ger). British: 16, S Rees-Jones and R Tribe. Finn: 1, H Spitzauer (Austria); 2, P Presti (Fr); 3, O Khoperskiy (Russia). British: 4, S Childerley; 6, J Fenstone; 8, R Lott. Europe: 1, T Moberg (Nor); 2, L Andersen (Nor); 3, S Powarzynski (Ger). British: 16, S Robertson; 21, K Hedgecock. Race 6: Olympic windsurfing: Men: B Edgington (GB); 2, H Halvorsen (Nor); 3, T Stade (Ger). Women: 1, M Herbert (Fr); 2, A Francois (Fr); 3, J Barzyneka (Pol). British: 4, P Way.

SWIMMING

Alert given on street drugs

BY CRAIG LORD

PROSPECTIVE Olympic swimmers and their coaches have been given a warning about the dangers of social drugs just over a month before the selection championships for Barcelona.

A letter signed by medical staff and Paul Bush, the British team manager, directs swimmers to be aware that "marijuana and other street drugs" are included on the International Olympic Committee's banned substances list. It follows the return of a British Olympic squad from a ten-day training camp in Florida, during which 16 random drug tests were taken by Sports Council representatives.

All the tests, including those for the four swimmers pre-selected for the Olympics, proved negative. However, rumours have since circulated that swimmers were involved in smoking social drugs at the training camp.

The authorities deny that the letter is connected with the rumours. Bush said: "The letter merely gives the guidelines from the Sports Council. It is a general warning about potential repercussions that can occur. No evidence has been brought to my attention that any member of our team is taking drugs."

The need for such advice was highlighted at the national championships in December when two swimmers were advised by the official doctor not to compete because the drugs they had been prescribed for colds contained banned substances.

In 1976, several British swimmers, mainly American based, were deprived of their places in the Olympic team for Montreal after being found smoking social drugs. Michael Fibbens, world cup series sprint champion, and one of those pre-selected for Barcelona, said: "Street drugs are widely available to young people in clubs, pubs, and so on. The most damaging of all are the rumours. I've heard so many stories about Florida. But I was there and I didn't see anything at all. We were there to train."

Fibbens benefits, page 34

Jones calling it a day

TIM Jones, the British No. 1 200 metres butterfly swimmer, has left the sport just a month before the Olympic selection championships (Craig Lord writes). His decision ends a career which was marked by swings from excellence to indifference.

Having won his first national title in 1987, and with several national titles and the 200 metres short-course record (1min 57.86sec) to his credit, Jones, aged 25, was the favourite to compete at Barcelona in the longer of the two butterfly races.

Birmingham, led by Nick Gillingham, the European champion at 200 metres breaststroke, will be all the weaker for Jones's retirement when they take on the men from Leeds, Barnet Copthall and Portsmouth Northsea at the British club team championships at Sheffield today and tommorrow.

Nova Centurion and Portsmouth Northsea are likely to set the standard in the women's contest. The winner will compete at the EC championships at Toulouse, France, next month.

CRICKET

Capacity crowds expected

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

THE South African cricket team is the guest of honour tonight at a reception being hosted by Noor Hassanali, the president of Trinidad and Tobago. It gives the team's presence here an official recognition which should help to defuse any lingering reservations held locally about the visit.

There is no lack of interest among cricket followers. All 17,000 reserved seats for the one-day international tomorrow have been sold and 15,000 of them have already gone for the game on Sunday. The Queen's Park ground could reach its capacity of 26,000 for both matches.

The same pitch is to be used over the weekend, which will surprise the England A players who lost an unofficial Test match by 130 runs on this ground last month on an under-prepared surface.

Trinidad continues to experience a drought but Lance Murray, the West Indian board's local member, says: "There will be no repetition of the England game fiasco. A lot of work has been done and I expect the pitch to play something like it would on the second and third days of a Test match." It seems likely that Roger Harper, the West Indies off spinner, will get a game, certainly on Sunday.

Season's fixtures, page 32

IN BRIEF

Upset for Becker in Spain

Boris Becker was beaten 1-6, 7-6, 6-4 by the 230th-ranked Spaniard, Jordi Burillo, aged 19, in the second round of the Spanish Open, at Barcelona.

Burillo had disposed of another German, Carl-Uwe Steeb, in the first round.

Out of action

Rugby league: Oldham's Western Samoan prop, Tiny Solomona, signed from Widnes last week, is to have a second groin operation.

Arundel honour

Cricket: Alan Wells, the Sussex skipper, will lead Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's XI against the Pakistanis in the traditional tour opener at Arundel on Sunday, May 3.

TEAM: A P Wells (Sussex, captain), N J Lenham, P Moores, F D Stephenson, B T P Donelan, I D K Salisbury (all Sussex), P D Bowler, T J G O'Gorman, M Jean-Jacques, S J Base (all Derbyshire), R O Butcher (Suffolk)

Eastern promise

Motor sport: A Formula One-standard track is planned for the Zhuhai special economic zone in Guangdong province, China. Only the Olympics and the football World Cup are more popular than motor racing, an official said.

Close defeat

Bowls: Terry Scott and David Webb, the 1990 winners, were beaten 23-20 on an extra end by Ted Boyle and his son, Iain, in the quarter-finals of the Manchester Unity EIBA pairs championship at Melton Mowbray.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

GUILDFORD: European police cross country championships: Men (11.5km): 1, J Prenon (Fr), 36min 37sec; 2, C Campagnac (Fr), 36:58; 3, P Fargère (Fr), 37.18. Team: 1, France, 33pts; 2, Germany, 87; 3, Britain, 125. Women (5.9km): 1, B Anderson (Den), 20.53; 2, S Gollan (GB), 21.47; 3, N Suze (Fr), 22.12. Team: 1, Germany, 15pts; 2, France, 19; 3, Denmark, 29

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Diego Padres 2, Cincinnati Reds 1; Philadelphia Phillies 11, Chicago Cubs 3; Pittsburgh Pirates 4, Montreal Expos 2; Atlanta Braves 3, Houston Astros 1. St Louis Cardinals 15, New York Mets 7.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto Blue Jays 10, Detroit Tigers 9; Milwaukee Brewers 9, Minnesota Twins 5; Cleveland Indians 4, Baltimore Orioles 0; Texas Rangers 13, Seattle Mariners 1, Chicago White Sox 4, California Angels 3; Oakland A's 4, Kansas City Royals 3.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston Celtics 93, New York Knicks 89; Detroit Pistons 89, Philadelphia 76ers 71; New Jersey Nets 109, Washington Bullets 103; Indiana Pacers 122, Milwaukee Bucks 107; Golden State Warriors 110, Dallas Mavericks 91.

BILLIARDS

DELHI: Grand slam tournament: Quarter-finals: R Close (Eng) bt N Dagley (Eng), 4-2; P Gilchrist (Eng) bt M Ferreira (India) 4-0.

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: EIBA CHAMPIONSHIPS: Pairs: First round: M Edwards, J Hobday (Bristol) 22, S Tutchener, I Brown (City of Ely) 18; T Perkins, I Middlemist (Clarry Dunbar) 20, J O'Toole, H Craig (Way Valley) 11; M Stevenson, A Ward (Newark) 28, J Knox, M Avent (Plymouth) 14; L Jinks, A Irons (Leicester) 28, K Wooding, S Taylor (City of Coventry) 21; D Baker, J Wennington (Thornaby) 27, C Yelland, W Richards (Cambridge Park) 19; M Overton, I Deines (Wymondham Dell) 20, M Rothon, C Bryan (Barlong) 15; J Haseldine, N Corbin (Rushden) 24, B Grundy, M Millgate (Angel) 15; A Wills, A Allcock (Bentham) 28, C Watford, D Harding (Stoke Mandeville) 17. Second round: H Thompson, I Walton (Cumbria) 13, R Johnson, J Wickham (Teignbridge) 22; A Briden, J Hay (Watford) 24, P Hayes, L Miller (March GER) 13; T Scott, D Webb (Gateshead) 23, W Blake, R Joyes (Woodspring) 14; B Vickers, G Smith (Cyphers) 13, E Boyle, I Boyle (Richardsons) 24; Bristol 25, Clarrie Dunbar 16; Newark 20, Leicester 19; Thornaby 21, Wymondham Dell 10; Rushden 8, Bentham 33. Pairs: Quarter-finals: R Johnson and J Wickham (Teignbridge) 21, A Briden and J Hay (Watford) 19; E Boyle and I Boyle (Richardsons) 23, T Scott and D Webb (Gateshead) 20; M Stevenson and A Ward (Newark) 17, M Edwards and J Hobday (Bristol) 15; A Wills and A Allcock (Bentham) 19, D Baker and J Wennington (Thornaby) 18. Triples: Final: R Gaskins, G Harrington, E Hanger (Brackley) 19, C Palmer, J Thurlbeck, J Leeman (Stanley), 11.

TWEED HEADS, Australia: Mazda International: Section A: P Belisle (NZ) 21, E Bonutto (Aus) 18, M Mahon (HK) 21, I Taylor (Aus) 19; D Katunrich (Aus) 21, I Bellis 13. Section B: J Price (Wales) 21, I Schuback (Aus) 14, R Parrella (Aus) 21, M Khan (NZ) 5; Price 21, A Thomson (Eng) 7.

FOOTBALL

Late results on Wednesday
NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: Oxford Utd 1, Millwall 0.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley 2, Leeds 1. Second division: Blackpool 0, Notts County 1.
FRENCH CUP: Third round: Nancy 2, Bourges 1; Ajaccio 2, St Etienne 1; Nice 0, Bastia 1; Red Star 2, Guingamp 1; Caen 0, Pau 0 (Caen won on pens); Cannes 2, Montpellier 1.
DUTCH LEAGUE: Twente Enschede 2, Utrecht 0; Fortuna Sittard 1, RKC Waalwijk 0.
SWISS LEAGUE: Grasshoppers 1, Lausanne 1; Young Boys Berne 4, Sion 1; St Gall 0, Servette 2; Neuchâtel Xamax 1, Zurich 3.
BARCLAYS LEAGUE: First division: Coventry City 0, Sheffield Wednesday 0; Liverpool 2, Wimbledon 3; Norwich City 1, Arsenal 3; Southampton 0, Nottingham Forest 1. Second division: Leicester City 3, Sunderland 2; Millwall 1, Swindon Town 1. Third division: Peterborough United 2, Bournemouth 0.
B & Q SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: St Johnstone 0, Aberdeen 0; St Mirren 1, Celtic 1. First division: Meadowbank Thistle 0, Montrose 1.
GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Boston Utd 1, Telford 2.
BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bray Wanderers 2, Cork City 1; St Patrick's Athletic 1, Bohemians 3.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE: President's Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Bishop Auckland 0, Stalybridge 1 (agg: 4-2). Premier division: Accrington Stanley 3, Fleetwood 0. First division: Farsley Celtic 2, Harrogate 3; Winsford 7, Newtown 0; Congleton 0, Guiseley 2.
NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Northallerton 0, Gretna 2; South Bank 1, Billingham Synthonia 2; Whickham 1, Blyth Spartans 5.
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Burnham 1, Fareham 0; Canterbury City 2, Gosport Borough 0; Hythe 3, Bury 1; Salisbury 1, Dunstable 2. Midland division: Hinckley 1, Sutton Coldfield 2; Leicester Utd 1, Redditch 2; Solihull Borough 2, Barry 1; Yate 1, Tamworth 3.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Brightlingsea 2, Brantham 0.
WENDY FAIR CAPITAL LEAGUE: Leyton Orient 3, Colchester 2; Brentford 1, Sutton Utd 1; Wokingham 3, Slough 2.
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham 3, Frome 1; Saltash 4, Minehead 3; Tiverton 1, Bideford 2; Torrington 2, Dawlish 1
VICTORY SHIELD: Schools Under-15 International: Wales 1, Northern Ireland 0.
INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Turkey 2, Denmark 1; Romania 2, Latvia 0
LIBERTADORES CUP: Group one: San Lorenzo (Arg) 2, Universidad Catolica (Chile) 2. Group two: São Paulo (Br) 1, San José (Bol) 1. Group three: Deportivo Valdéz (Ec) 1, Universidad de los Andes (Ven) 1. Group four: Sport Boys (Peru) 0, Nacional (Col) 6. Group five: Cerro Porteño (Par) 1, Nacional (Uru) 1
GERMAN CUP: Semi-final: Hanover 1, Werder Bremen 1 (aet; Hanover win 6-5 on penalties and meet Borussia Mönchengladbach in final).

FREESTYLE SKIING

LA PLAGNE, France: Volvo British/Dutch International: Men's moguls: 1, H Hutchison (Scot), 24.57sec; 2, M Liebreich (Eng), 24.52; 3, T Jensen (Den), 23.12; 4, R Binnenweg (Neth), 23.03; 5, S George (Eng), 21.70. Women's moguls: 1, J Curry (Eng), 18.57; 2, N Forrest (Scot), 17.13; 3, K Smith (Eng), 17.13; 4, S Spalding (Eng), 17.07; 5, G Benson (Eng), 10.61.

Amy Frazier: winner in Tokyo tennis

BOXING

LEEDS: Professional tournament: Commonwealth super-middleweight title (12 rnds): Henry Wharton (York) bt Rod Carr (Melbourne), rsc 8th rnd. Welter (8 rnds): Steve Howden (Sheffield) bt Ron Hopley (Ripon), pts. Light-heavy (8 rnds): Michael Gale (Leeds) bt Tony Booth (Sheffield), pts
ATLANTIC CITY: Heavyweight (ten rounds): Riddick Bowe (US) bt Conroy Nelson (Can), rsc 1st rnd

CYCLING

WEVELGEM, Belgium: Ghent to Wevelgem (210km): 1, M Cipollini (It), 4hr 49min; 2, J Capiot (Bel); 3, A Baffi (It), 4, J-P van Poppel (Neth), 5, J Nijdam (Neth); 6, U Raab (Ger), all same time. D Abdujaparov (CIS), first across the line, disqualified
TOUR OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY: Fourth stage (195km, Spain unless stated): 1, V Poulnikov (CIS), 5hr 15min 58sec; 2, G Bugno (It), 3, P Anderson (Aus); 4, D Rayner (GB); 5, T Rominger (Switz), 6, S Roche (Ire), all same time. Overall: 1, Rominger, 18hr 7min 45sec; 2, Roche, 3sec behind; 3, J Gorospe, 7; 4, R Pensec (Fr), 10; 5, R Alcala (Mex), same time

GOLF

HALFORD HEWITT CUP: First round: Deal: Loretto 4½, Wellingborough ½. Rossall 3½, Dulwich 1½. Stowe 3, City of London 2. Marlborough 3½, Downside 1½, Wrekin 3. Merchant Taylors' 2, Stonyhurst 4. Brighton 1, St Bees 3. Gresham's 2, Wellington 3½. Framlingham 1½, Cranleigh 3, Radley 2. Tonbridge 5, Felsted 0.
Charterhouse 4½, King's Canterbury ½. Sandwich: Rugby 4, Cheltenham 1. Eastbourne 3, Shrewsbury 2. Repton 5, Westminster 0; Edinburgh Academy 4, St Paul's 1. Watson's 4, Hurstpierpoint 1. Harrow 4½, Haileybury ½. Glenalmond 4½, Bishop's Stortford ½. Fettes 3. Liverpool 2; Whitgift 5, Chigwell 0
DAIWACHO, Japan: Men's tournament: First round (Japan unless stated), 69: Y Yokoshima, 64: S Fujiki 65: A Yokoyama, Y Niizeki, K Suzuki. British score: 71: P Hoad.
FUKUROI, Japan: Women's tournament: First round (Japan unless stated) 66: C Yamazaki. 71: K Higo 72: J Yasui, C Nishida. 73: M Shimabukuro, Y Inoue, R Imahori, M Yokoyama

ICE HOCKEY

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool B: Romania 2, Netherlands 2 (in Klagenfurt)

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacoste Open doubles championship: Second round: N Smith and S Hazell bt M Carr and O Morris-Adams, 15-5, 15-0, 15-2, 15-4; W Boone and J Prese bt J Longley and D Makey, 15-5, 15-7, 15-1, 15-6

TENNIS

TOKYO: Japan Open championships: Men: Third round: S Edberg (Swe) bt W Masur (Aus), 6-3, 6-3; J Courier (US) bt G Pozzi (It), 6-3, 6-3; T Woodbridge (Aus) bt B Steven (NZ), 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, R Krajicek (Neth) bt J Grabb (US), 6-4, 6-3; A Mansdorf (Isr) bt P Haarhuis (Neth), 4-6, 6-1, 7-6, M Chang (US) bt M Zöcke (Ger), 6-4, 6-2, M Stich (Ger) bt A Jarryd (Swe), 7-5, 6-2, B Gilbert (US) bt A Krickstein (US), 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. Women: Quarter-finals: A Frazier (US) bt N Medvedeva (CIS), 6-4, 6-1, K Date (Japan) bt M Jaeger (GB), 6-4, 6-1; N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt R Reggi-Concato (It), 6-3, 6-2; S Appelmans (Bel) bt M Werdel (US), 7-5, 6-2.
BARCELONA: Spanish Open: Second round: S Bruguera (Sp) bt A Gómez (Ec), 7-5, 6-2; T Muster (Austria) bt J Altur (Sp), 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, J Burillo (Sp) bt B Becker (Ger), 1-6, 7-6, 6-4; J Svensson (Swe) bt J Arrese (Sp), 1-6, 7-5, 6-3; M Gustavsson (Swe) bt A Corretja (Sp), 6-7, 7-6, 6-1. Third round: C Costa bt J Eltingh (Neth), 7-6, 7-6, I Lendl (Cz) bt T Muster (Austria), 6-3, 6-4, A Mancini (Arg) bt F Clavet (Sp), 7-6, 6-0, R Gilbert (Fr) bt J Sánchez (Sp), 7-6, 6-0.
AMELIA ISLAND, Florida: Women's tournament: Second round, S Graf (Ger) bt S Meier (Ger), 7-5, 6-1; B Schultz (Neth) bt F Labat (Arg), 1-6, 6-3, 7-5; P Fendick (US) bt P Tarabini (Arg), 5-7, 6-1, 6-2; C Martinez (Sp) bt C Papadaki (Gr), 6-0, 6-3; I Gorrochategui (Arg) bt T Whittington (US), 6-0, 6-2; N Zvereva (CIS) bt C Bassett-Seguso (Can), 6-3, 6-4; K Rinaldi (US) bt L Garrone (It), 7-5, 6-2. Quarter-finals: A Coetzer (SA) bt G Sabatini (Arg), 4-6, 6-1, 6-2; S Graf (Ger) bt Z Garrison (US), 6-0, 5-7, 7-5, S Hack (Ger) bt K Maleeva (Bul), 6-4, 6-3; J Novotna (Cz) bt P Hy (Can), 6-1, 2-1, ret
GABORONE, Botswana: Women's satellite tournament: Quarter-finals (GB unless stated): E Gevers (SA) bt S Bentley, 6-2, 4-6, 6-0, C Summers (SA) bt L Venter (SA), 6-2, 6-3, J Pullin bt K Cross, 6-4, 6-4, L Ahl bt E Nortje (Nam), 6-3, 2-6, 6-3

THE TIMES
SPORT
FRIDAY APRIL 10 1992

Wolstenholme overcomes nerves at Augusta

Wadkins takes an early lead with round of 65

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

GARY Wolstenholme yesterday enjoyed the most memorable round of his career as, alongside Arnold Palmer, he played his first nine competitive holes in 33 strokes on his way to a 72 in the Masters at Augusta National.

Lanny Wadkins, who won the US PGA Championship in 1977, established the early target with a seven-under-par round of 65.

Wolstenholme, aged 31, the Amateur champion, started out on a heavenly morning when there was not even a breath of wind to rustle the towering Georgia pines.

The first hole is as gentle as they come. Wolstenholme, however, is not a long hitter and, from 40 yards behind Palmer, he struck a sound second shot to find the green. He spoiled it by taking three putts. It came as something of a surprise as, after a practice round on Wednesday, Jack Nicklaus said of Wolstenholme that he felt he could make the halfway cut because of the quality of his short game.

At the 2nd and 3rd, Wolstenholme confirmed the wisdom of those words to Palmer and to the large gallery which customarily follows the great man, especially here where he has won four times.

Wolstenholme hit a lovely pitch at the 2nd which spun the ball back to four feet. Palmer, 20 feet away, made his putt for a birdie which, of course, received generous applause. Wolstenholme, too, clapped as he did virtually everytime that Palmer played a shot. Then he holed himself for a birdie.

Next Wolstenholme coaxed the ball in from 14 feet for a birdie at the 3rd. He gave himself a four-foot putt for a birdie at the 7th which he holed via the side door, and advanced with another birdie at the 8th.

Palmer was clearly impressed and Wolstenholme continued to enjoy himself. He salvaged his par at the 9th with the most delicate of chips to four feet from the hole.

It is a tradition at Augusta for the leader-board to have on it at the start of play the names of the four major champions from the previous years, and also the Amateur champion and the US Amateur champion. It is unsual for the Amateur champion's name to remain there for long, but Wolstenholme knew that whatever happened he had led the Masters.

Palmer outdrove him by 60 yards at the 11th. Wolstenholme had no option other than to play safe with his second and from the right side of the green he took three to get down to drop another shot. He gave another back at the 14th, birdied the 17th, but dropped another at the last.

Wadkins, out in 34, demonstrated how to play Amen Corner, where so often fortune fluctuates, by extracting a birdie from each hole — the 11th, 12th and 13th — with which he moved to five under par. He made further progress with another birdie at the 14th and finished with one at the 18th.

Raymond Floyd, aged 49, brought back memories of his Masters triumph in 1976 when he raced away from the field by gathering four birdies in his first five holes. But he took six at the 7th and he needed a birdie at the 8th to be out in 33. Then, at the 10th, he dropped two shots at one hole for the second time in his round.

Colin Montgomerie two-putted from fully 60 feet for a birdie at the 2nd but he had missed from ten feet at the 1st and he did so from a similar distance at the 3rd. His approach was too strong at the 5th and he dropped a shot there and another at the next where he three-putted from 25 feet.

The Scot saved par from the back of the 7th with a good chip to two feet. Out in 37, he started back with three successive pars before making a birdie at the 13th.

Steven Richardson and David Feherty, like Montgomerie playing in their first Masters, were out in 35 and 36 respectively. Richardson dropped a shot at the 7th but he had an eagle three at the 8th. Feherty began with 12 successive pars, took seven at the 13th, but had a birdie at the next.

Bernhard Langer had to scramble early on but he was out in 36. He elbowed his way into contention with three sucessive birdies from the 12th.

Jeff Sluman, the former US PGA champion, became the first player in the history of the Masters to have a hole in one at the fourth. There have been 11 holes in one, five on the 16th, three on the 12th and three on the 6th. Sluman went to four under with his.

EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 67: L Wadkins. 69: F Allem (SA). 70: B R Brown, N Henke. 71: B McCallister. 72: P Jacobsen, B Glider, * G Wolstenholme, K Perry. 73: L Nelson. 73: S Pate. 73: J D Blake. 74: G Archer. 75: D Pruitt. 79: *J Stuart.
* denotes amateur.

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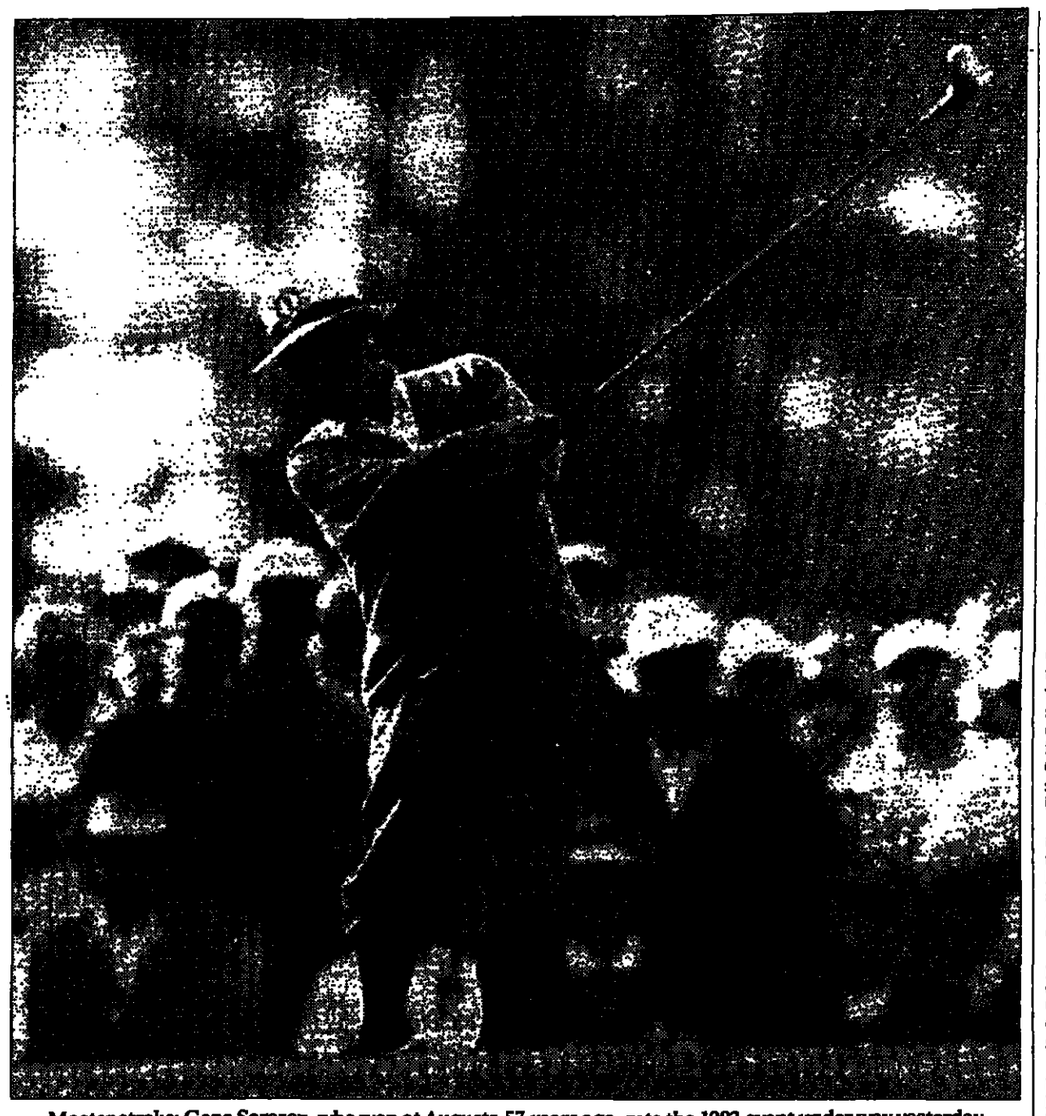
CARD OF THE COURSE

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	400	4	10	485	4
2	555	5	11	455	4
3	360	4	12	155	3
4	205	3	13	485	5
5	435	4	14	405	4
6	180	3	15	500	5
7	360	4	16	170	3
8	535	5	17	400	4
9	435	4	18	405	4
Out	3,465	36	In	3,440	36
Total yardage: 6,905				Par: 72	



Master stroke: Gene Sarazen, who won at Augusta 57 years ago, gets the 1992 event under way yesterday

Bates in move to gain time

BY MATTHEW BOND

NEGOTIATIONS between Chelsea and Cabra Estates, the property company that owns Stamford Bridge, continued yesterday as the midnight deadline for Chelsea to pay Cabra £22.85 million passed.

With the deadline out of the way, Cabra is free to begin eviction or winding up proceedings against Chelsea, although neither move would threaten the two remaining home matches that Chelsea have this season.

However, Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, bought the club more time yesterday when he confirmed that Chelsea's lawyers would appeal directly to the House of Lords for a stay of last week's Appeal Court order requiring Chelsea to buy Stamford Bridge by midnight yesterday.

The House of Lords is in recess and is not due to return until after Easter. As a result it is unclear when Chelsea's appeal would be heard. In the meantime negotiations are expected to continue.

One sticking point is the position of Fulham, who are due to receive £5 million from Cabra if they vacate Craven Cottage at the end of the season.

Assuming Fulham were to ground-share with Chelsea, part of that money could be used to help raise the £10-13 million in cash that Mr Bates has offered Cabra for SB Property, the Cabra subsidiary that owns Stamford Bridge. Cabra is believed to be unhappy about money it pays to Fulham being used to buy Stamford Bridge.

If Chelsea's lawyers are successful with the appeal, that could step up the pressure on John Duggan, Cabra's chairman.

Notice of an extraordinary general meeting at which Vanbrugh, a private company controlled by Mr Bates and owner of 29.6 per cent of Cabra's shares, is expected to go out next week, with the egm following three to four weeks after that.

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Non-League review, page 36

Milan coach advises caution

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FABIO Capello, the AC Milan coach, has warned his unbeaten side against taking victory for granted in its drive for the Italian league football title. Milan, six points clear of Juventus with seven games left this season, should have an easy time against Cremonese, who are facing relegation, on Sunday.

But Capello has advocated caution. "It may be difficult for us because a psychological easing up is possible," he said. "I remember once as a player with Juventus when we lost a five-point lead in four Sundays to Torino, who went on to win the title."

Capello may be without Frank Rijkaard, his influential Dutch midfield player, who went down with suspected appendicitis at the end of a training session on Wednesday. The club's medical staff are keeping Rijkaard under close observation before deciding whether he needs an operation.

Juventus may recall Jürgen Kohler, the German central defender, for what should be a relatively simply home game against the bottom side, Ascoli.

Ascoli will be without the suspended Benetti and Piscedda, while two other players, Pierleoni and Aloisi, have been dropped as punishment for an argument on the pitch during the 2-1 home defeat by Internazionale last Sunday.

The Spanish champions, Barcelona, face a testing five days starting on tomorrow. Second in the title race, and one point behind Real Madrid, they travel to Valencia then for a difficult league match before hosting Benfica next Wednesday in a decisive European Cup tie to decide who goes through to the final at Wembley on May 20. Barcelona were knocked out of this year's Spanish Cup by Valencia and have not won there for five seasons.

Real Madrid, the leaders, also play away on Saturday, but their task against the bottom club, Real Mallorca, looks a easier.

In France, Marseilles need to beat Montpellier tomorrow to fend off the challenge from their arch-rivals, Monaco, before the two clubs play what could be the deciding match for the league title next week.

The champions will have the advantage of playing at home tomorrow while Monaco, two points behind them, face a difficult trip to Nantes tonight.

Monaco may also feel weary against Marseilles on April 18, since the team from the principality is still involved in the French Cup and the European Cup Winners' Cup. The travel to Rotterdam to play the second leg of their semi-final against Feyenoord on Wednesday.

Chris Waddle, the England player who seems set to leave Marseilles at the end of the season, has a personal interest in his side's match against Monaco.

"If Monaco have an interest in me at the end of the season, I'll have an interest in them," he said.

Eintracht Frankfurt, VfB Stuttgart, and Borussia Dortmund, the German sides separated by goal difference at the top of the *Bundesliga*, all face hard opposition at the weekend.

Eintracht, the leaders, travel to Borussia Mönchengladbach, who overcame Bayer Leverkusen in the German Cup semi-finals in midweek, while VfB, in second place, entertain Nuremberg.

Tonight, Dortmund play Bayern Munich, formerly a power in West Germany and Europe, but now struggling for points to avoid relegation.

With four matches to go in The Netherlands, PSV Eindhoven will be defending a three-point advantage over Ajax when they host the struggling Willem II Tilburg this weekend.

Ajax are at home to FC den Haag, who desperately need a win to avoid relegation.

☐ Samesh Kumar, the Birmingham City chairman, has been charged by the Football Association with bringing the game into disrepute for his remarks about the referee after the St Andrew's riot on February 29.

Kumar will face an FA Commission to explain his comments about the referee Roger Wiseman, who later asked to be withdrawn from matches for the rest of the season.

Kumar subsequently wrote to Wiseman to apologise. Last week, Birmingham were given a suspended sentence by the FA of a £50,000 fine and an order to play two games behind closed doors for failing to exercise proper crowd control.

Medical check for Waqar

Karachi: The Pakistan and Surrey fast bowler, Waqar Younis, is to be flown to London to receive treatment for a stress fracture of the back in an effort to get him fit for the tour of England which starts next month.

Shahid Rafi, secretary, of the Board of Control of Cricket in Pakistan, said yesterday that a decision on whether to include the player in the World Cup winner's squad would be made on the basis of medical reports.

Waqar's injury, incurred in the winter series against Sri Lanka, kept him out of the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. Rafi also said that the controversial leg spinner, Abdul Qadir, would have to "undergo scrutiny for fitness" before any decision was taken on whether he should be in the party.

"You cannot ignore him . . . because he is such a wonderful bowler and a source of strength for the side," Rafi said.

Qadir, aged 36, spent four months in plaster after an operation on an Achilles tendon he ruptured during a charity match between Pakistan and India at Uxbridge last autumn.

☐ Transvaal will become the first South African team to play at Lord's since 1965, when they face MCC in a one-day game on July 19 (Marcus Williams writes).

MCC intend to include players from all over the world for a fixture that will form part of a three-match MCC cricket festival.

The club's other opponents will be the winners of the European *Cricketer* Cup and Scotland. The European competition is to be held at Worksop College, Nottinghamshire, starting on July 13.

1992 fixtures, page 32

League moves replay

BY IAN ROSS

MANY thousands of supporters will be disappointed if the Rumbelows Cup final between Manchester United and Nottingham Forest at Wembley on Sunday requires a replay.

Because the Football League and the Football Association failed to reach agreement on a date for a second game, it will now be staged four days after the season has officially ended, on May 6, at Goodison Park, the home of Everton, a ground which can accommodate only 39,000 people.

The date which the Football League had originally set aside for a replay, April 22, had to be discounted because the clubs involved will be fulfilling outstanding League fixtures during that week.

Attempts by League officials to reschedule a replay for May 4 at Wembley were thwarted when the FA exercised its right to ban any event there in the weeks leading up to its own showpiece, the FA Cup final, on May 9.

"We are very disappointed because it means that the supporters of two of our biggest clubs will suffer if a replay is required," Andy Williamson, the League's assistant secretary, said.

With Hillsborough and Villa Park both unavailable because of ground redevelopment work, the League had little option but to approach Everton.

☐ The Leeds United manager, Howard Wilkinson, hopes to make Eric Cantona's transfer from the French club, Nimes, permanent next week. Leeds, who made a £100,000 downpayment for the international forward in February, will now have to pay an additional £800,000.

Power of positive thinking

Cliff Morgan, the former Wales and British Isles stand-off and a director of CPMA, on Rugby World Cup's commercial future

DURING the next couple of weeks, the New Zealand Rugby Union will be celebrating its centenary, an unforgettable hundred years in a country where people's hearths and homes nurture mighty rugby men. The game there provokes strong and noble emotions and unites the humblest and most powerful people in the land. Memories and dreams will be prompted during three special matches involving some of the greatest players in the world. New Zealand has much to celebrate.

This weekend, though, members of the International Rugby Football Board meet in Wellington to discuss and then decide the future of the game worldwide: the laws, amateurism, international tours, the return of South Africa to the family and much more. It will also announce the country that will host the Rugby World Cup in 1995. Several have expressed the desire to stage the event, for all understand the colossal interest this tournament stimulates wherever it is played.

The overwhelming opinion in the British Isles and in France is that Rugby World Cup 1991 was one of the greatest sporting festivals, and that the whole thing was a success, with many thousands of people converted to the game and an almost equal number of youngsters taking up playing rugby in schools and clubs around the country, a reaction which, reports suggest, is echoed all over the world.

What has been the impulse? The World Cup, played in commendable spirit, was also unwaveringly stylish and exciting. It is my belief that the directors of Rugby World Cup, the rugby unions throughout the world and everyone who worked on the detail of planning and organising this complex event can nod their heads when recalling the words from the Book of Hosea: "He shall cast forth his roots and his branches shall spread". That was the aim and the achievement enlarges itself week by week in far-flung corners of the world. Rugby smiles.

Yet I have been saddened and sickened by a few cynics who continue to knock everything about Rugby World Cup 1991, uncaring people who create confusion about the future of the tournament.

Much of this attack is aimed at my company, CPMA, commercial advisers to Rugby World Cup. I am proud to represent this company, for it cares about helping to build a secure structure for the game's future and to provide for rugby the sort of security enjoyed by the football World Cup and the Olympic Games.

For the eye that wanted to see, Rugby World Cup 1991 did the job it set out to do. For those few others, they are overwhelmed by the 1.7 billion who watched and enjoyed it.

In 1987, seventeen countries watched the World Cup on television. The 1991 tournament was viewed in 103 countries. In the United Kingdom the peak viewing audience for the final was 15.3 million and 82 per cent of the population watched some World Cup coverage. In France, the quarter-final against England attracted a record audience of 20.7 million; in Japan, over 17 million people watched Scotland v Japan.

The world's media flocked to the event to bring Rugby World Cup to its broadest audience; 2,700 media people were accredited, compared with the 445 at the inaugural event in 1987.

And the reaction of the major sponsors? We have received praise from all quarters, including the chairman of Heinz, Dr Tony O'Reilly, who told me that his company had been absolutely satisfied with its close involvement. Good for the company as well as beneficial to the game.

Steinlager achieved a seven-fold increase in sales in Britain between September and October and Ricoh increased its conversion rate of sales calls into new business by 27 per cent through World Cup promotions. So who can deny that the World Cup was not a remarkably powerful marketing vehicle for those involved?

In appointing my company for the 1993 Rugby World Sevens, the board of Rugby World Cup said that we had successfully carried out the commercial programme and met the targets. Our brief was not to exploit or rape the commercial market-place, it was to get the World Cup up to speed as a world occasion and always to bear in mind the twin objectives of income and exposure.

So many people are playing a positive role for they have a strong, deep attachment to the game. Rugby has done well by us and it deserves that we do well by it.

Ashe illness upsets players

FROM BARRY WOOD IN TOKYO

TENNIS players expressed their surprise and shock yesterday at the revelation that Arthur Ashe is suffering from the Aids virus, although it is understood it had been rumoured in the locker-room for more than a year.

Nevertheless, there can be no doubting the sincerity of their concern for both him and his family. "It's brutal," Jimmy Connors, whom Ashe beat in the 1975 Wimbledon final, said at the Tokyo Open. "I'm in total shock. It is unbelievable that something like this could happen, but if anyone can cope with it, he can. As a player, he was a great competitor and his tennis training will help him cope with this situation."

Stefan Edberg, the world's leading player, added his tribute to a man who is regarded as one of the statesmen of the game. "I could not believe it when I heard the news. It's hard to believe that he got the virus through a blood transfusion in 1983. I am sad for him and his family," he said.

"Arthur was a great player. He had been, and still is, a great example to all of us inside and outside tennis."

Michael Chang may be too young to remember Ashe's glory days but he appreciated the sadness of the situation.

In London, Ian Barnes, spokesman for the International Tennis Federation, described Ashe as a model professional. "We have tremendous sympathy with Arthur. He has always been a splendid example to young athletes and for a thing like to happen to him especially in these circumstances is distressing."

All Blacks prepare for change

ONLY six of the New Zealand rugby union team that contested last October's World Cup semi-final with Australia will play in the shadow All Blacks side in Napier on Sunday (David Hands writes). After that trial, against a possibles XV called the Saracens, the party of 26 for the three-match centenary series against a World XV will be chosen.

However, all three Western Samoan backs who played in the World Cup have won places after yesterday's trials double-header, also staged in Napier. Frank Bunce plays at centre for the probables, while Stephen Bachop and Timo Tagaloa play stand-off half and wing, respectively, for the possibles.

Several leading players, among them Michael Jones, John Timu, Terry Wright and the half backs, Jason Hewett and John Preston, could not be considered because of injury, but Laurie Mains, the new coach, is clearly considering making wholesale changes.

He was disappointed with the standard of fitness shown by the tight forwards yesterday, although he admitted he was impressed with two newcomers from North Harbour, Richard Turner, at No. 8, and Blair Larsen, at lock. Both go straight into the probables, under the captaincy of Michael Brewer.

Although Grant Fox, the country's leading points scorer, holds his place at stand-off, Bachop presents a clear challenge. Were he to win promotion he could play alongside his younger brother, Graeme, the All Blacks scrum half. Sunday's teams include another set of brothers, Greg and Matt Cooper, who oppose each other at full back.

Hare's post, page 34

The impatience of being Kingsley Amis

Seventy next week, the old growler is cantankerous — but he does not know the meaning of the word curmudgeon

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

Jovial Sir Kingsley beams. "Long time no see! Brought a photographer with you, eh? What fun. I adore having my picture taken. Welcome to the Savoy — and this time let's have no nonsense about you paying the bill. This lunch is on me."

Sir Kingsley places fiction a long way above journalism, so I thought I'd try it. Not very convincing is it. So I must rely on the facts in my notepad. "You can say what you like," he says, "as long as you don't have me going purple with rage."

So this is not to be one of those Amis interviews, regular as the first cuckoo, where the journalist presses buttons (Arts council/Architects/Modern poets) to cause a harrumph to erupt, or the eyes to pop. That would be as foolish as offering him a nice healthy spritzer instead of two malt whiskies before lunch, or balking at the bill (£142).

*We meet because his 70th birth*day looms next week. His publishers are giving a large party which he does not expect to enjoy one bit, and reissuing *Lucky Jim* as a Penguin 20th-century classic, and his *Memoirs* in paperback, hooray.

All that fuss about the memoirs being "morally repugnant" was misplaced. Of course *The Sunday Times* extracted all the most disgusting bits, the sodden, drunken yarns and the grudges borne after half a century about the rounds certain tightwads failed to buy. "Not that I blame the paper. What are they to do? Print the bits that show me to be a charming old chap, satisfied with my lot?" There *were* plenty of charming bits: a touching portrait of Betjeman, a *deeply true one of John Braine, a* tribute to the novelist Elizabeth Taylor. But hacks got busy, finding out whether victims were (if still alive) offended. "Quite artificial I thought, and souped up, because even if you do or don't like the people, what I say is pretty *mild*."

For Sir Kingsley the last decade has been pretty good. When he turned 60 he was in a bad way. Laid up with his leg in plaster, having managed to break it while standing up. He had gone on the wagon, and got very fat on Cadbury's Dairy Milk. He had to rewrite his novel, *Difficulties with Girls*. His second marriage was over, his friend Philip Larkin lately dead. He lived in an urban-hellish rat-run in Kentish Town. He got *depressed in the afternoons*, and went to a shrink for help, as he tells in one of the more self-revelatory bits of memoir: "I should potter about, he said, administer things. I said I had nothing to potter about with or administer. Had I any interest in the theatre? None whatsoever; I had not been for ten years. Might I go to the cinema? On my own? To see what?"

Now he is revived, rejuvenated. He won the Booker (1986), has been knighted, published four novels — one this week — and had four televised. But don't say you found *The Old Devils* better or easier to follow on television — "Of *course*, any book is harder work than watching TV."

Things start well. I have found him congenial company ever since he was a lad of 51 and I took him on a hilarious excursion back to Norbury in south London, the undistinguished suburb of his childhood, and we lunched in a pub. Today, we peruse a grand menu that begins "Warm individual Tomato ..." and he gives his odd silent laugh about the vegetable having a friendly outgoing personality. *Within minutes he is* mimicking people: Lord Longford, John Mortimer ...

But as lunch proceeds he seems *wilfully to mis-hear or misunder*stand me. "The comparison which you yourself draw ..." "Draw? I can't draw a bloody face." I mention a *young writer I find* funny (silly me) who "writes off the top of his head, in his *garret* ..." "What? I've never seen him in there." "Where?" "*In the Garrick. I* hope we never get *him* in there. But you never know these days."

"But these jokes against you ..." "Jokes? Oh, that's what they are. You could have fooled me." Uh-oh. The Amis interview taking over ... "I don't know why we got on to him. He doesn't interest me." Who does, then? "No journalists, certainly. Lazier and lazier. Come to the interview with the thing already written. They just don't bother to check the stories. Too bloody lazy to pick up the phone and say was it 1979? Or 1942?"

But he sold his soul years ago by agreeing to his first interview: Dan Farson — that odd episode when Farson brought Lucian Freud to Swansea with him. From then on he could never be the Graham Greene-like mystery author, the reclusive Ted Hughes. The press have always had Amis on tap, promiscuous with his Sandersonised drawing room and dial-a-quote responses. Only last weekend he was in the *Observer* telling us which way he was going to vote: "I *shall vote Conservative. Of course I* shall." Never mind that he is dogged by his declaration, in a 1956 pamphlet, about always voting Labour, "no matter how depraved the candidate or how virtuous his opponent".

"Did you see, the only people voting Tory were Auberon Waugh, me and Jackie Mann? All the other idiots [only he didn't say idiots] ..." and out poured his mistrust about Kinnock ("a loser") and his Europhobia ("those bastards in France and Germany"). Even John Smith, whom he once saw in the Garrick bar, was "too small" to take seriously.

But hell, it's his birthday. How does life look, from Primrose Hill? What does he see when he goes *abroad? (I mean out and about, but* he takes it literally.) "I don't go abroad. Haven't been abroad for 12 years. I only go to South Wales, which is like going abroad without leaving England. But I'm not on the lookout for things people are worried about. I've got me own life to lead and I get on with it."

He works in the mornings at the old Adler, groaning periodically and sneezing so loudly that people in the street stop in their tracks. He goes out to lunch, never dinner ("Never did like dinner parties, treacherous things. Like most men I don't really like conversing with strangers. It's women who like dinners, and theatre, and opera, and going on holiday.").

Oh, women. The ones who get words wrong. Half the wives he knows, he says, are Mrs Malaprops, saying "courgettes" for "couchettes", and getting clichés wrong. "Hilly [his first wife] does it all the time: 'I think I'm going off my top.' 'If you can manage that, Adrian, the world's your lobster.' 'When you went down to Wales for *your ignaurial.*' "

Isolated in his eyrie, he keeps working: he wouldn't know what else to do. Three long short stories are under way. "It's occupational therapy. Everybody, unless they've been dukes, knows work is necessary to life. I've got a *dread* of taking it easy. I saw what happened *to my father: bored out of his mind*, poor thing."

He describes his father's deadening retirement after a lifetime clerking for Colman's Mustard: the bus into Swansea, *The Daily Telegraph* over coffee, the glass of light ale in the pub, the afternoon snooze, dinner. "In the end, he went back to London and took a humble job flogging industrial brushes."

Old women do not have this problem: only the half of the human race that does not have to do its own washing, cooking or cleaning. Then as now, it was the *delightful Hilly, the mother of his* children, who did all that: his famous domestic arrangements today are that he shares his house with her and her genial second husband, the Earl of Kilmarnock.

I express surprise that he has resorted, several times, to going to shrinks. In that case I must be unfamiliar with his novels, he says. Well, I say, I thought all the psychiatric bits (for instance, in *Stanley and the Women* and *Take A Girl Like You*) were second-hand. "One's always writing at second-hand." "I'd have thought that even in your deepest depths, you'd be the kind who'd say, it's up to me to pull myself out of this." "Well I would, but at the same time — I need not explain myself to you — if they can *help you, let's try it, why not? That* would only be surprising to anyone who has never penetrated the persona. It doesn't fit in with all the *curmudgeon* stuff."

Curmudgeon. This is a tripwire. A girl had said to his son Martin (he affects a silly girlish whine): "'I've met your father, and he's rather nice. He's not angry, he's not irritable, he's just a curmudgeon.' Whatever she thought that was."

A curmudgeon, I say, is a mean old skinflint. "I've never heard that," he clips back. "I'm sure you're wrong. *It means a cantan*kerous person: irritable, crusty etc. Nothing to do with meanness with money. No dictionary gives any *hint that it means that.*"

Well, really! I went straight to the Shorter Oxford when I got home. "Curmudgeon: an avaricious churlish fellow; a miser; a niggard ... hence curmudgeonly: miserly, niggardly, churlish." I read this to him on the phone but he remains obdurate: "I know you're wrong," he says.

The memoirs have brought him more appreciative letters from the public than any other book. Which *is very nice, but it annoys him to* think people prefer reading about real life: "It negates art." Well, all right. I, who (like his friend Peter Quennell) would rather read any biography than almost all new fiction, prefer to read Amis on education, on Chesterton, on Milton, Kipling, or jazz, or any of his sod-the-public diatribes than his new novel about the grey academic and the Russian poetess (*The Russian Girl*, reviewed warmly by our literary editor). It has a monstrous character, Cordelia, one of those women Amis endows with phonetic word-manglings as in, "Vug of, uzzhaul". Male critics may fall off their bar-stools at such inventiveness.

Meanwhile I return happily to his memoirs, knowing that he has said, apropos Anthony Burgess, "Autobiographies are not really serious in the way novels are." But anecdote — by which he tries not to reveal himself, but does, is a brilliant art form in itself. I love the *story of his going to see Walter* Lippmann with his hempen homespun Uncle Virg in tow, when Uncle Virg asked Lippmann what he thought of "Shanghai Shek", rather as one might have said Texas Dan.

He used to do an imitation of the porcine elder Waugh in Pinfold mode: now he looks like that anyway. But inside him is the once slim, handsome young blade with the sensuous mouth and thick floppy hair who wrote poetry. He still feels that writing novels is "a good second best" to poetry, so here are some lines from his *A Bookshop Idyll* etched in my memory:

Man's love is of man's life a thing apart;
Girls aren't like that.
We men have got love well weighed up; our stuff
Can get by without it.
Women don't seem to think that's good enough;
They write about it.
And the awful way their poems lay them open
Just doesn't strike them.
Women are really much nicer than men:
No wonder we like them.

He'd have made a good Poet Laureate: monarchist, lover of Thatcher (who told him, in a dream, "You have such an interesting face"), polemicist. His views on education, aired by Beesley in *Lucky Jim* and solidified into "More will mean worse" in 1960 when "the university is already taking almost everyone who can read and write", are still valid: one is on safe ground with him discussing ignorance.

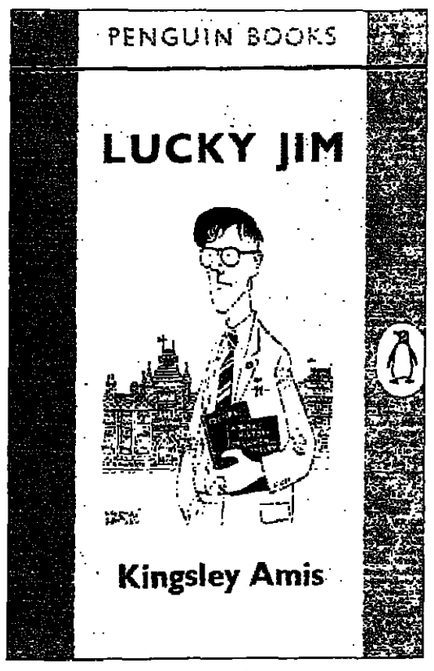
"Children — anyone under 40 — don't know anything. I don't mean just the Fifth Symphony, or *Hamlet*. They don't know 'Here We Go Gathering Nuts in May.' "

He, by contrast, is a repository of what is worthwhile in literature and *light verse*. "A *dread of not* having anything to say, but needing to go on saying it" afflicts him, but need not. Death has taken all but four of his best friends (and his white cat Sarah). In Larkin's last letter to Amis, he sent love to Hilly, "the most beautiful woman I've ever *seen without being at all beautiful*, if you know what I mean. I think she does."

Sir Kingsley ends his memoirs *with a poem "To H", "whose eye I* could have met forever then" ... and how he "set about looking further" and lost the thing most *precious to him.*

DENZIL McNEELANCE

"You can say what you like, as long as you don't have me going purple with rage": Sir Kingsley Amis in typically benevolent mood



A handsome young blade: Kingsley Amis in 1958 and (right) *Lucky Jim*, which brought him fame

INSIDE

WEEKEND TIMES tomorrow
Rebirth of a river

WEEKEND EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kari Knight

WAX ACTS: The American comedienne Ruby Wax is back at the Globe with her punishing attack on middle-class customs.
Globe Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (071-494 5065), tonight, tomorrow, 8 30pm.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Daniel Barenboim brings the orchestra to London for the first time as its music director in two concerts which open the London International Orchestral Season The programme of the first concert is conservative — Beethoven's *Leonore No 3*, Mozart's Piano Concerto K453 (with Barenboim as soloist) and Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben* In the second, however, pieces by Ravel are complemented by John Corigliano's highly effective and personal response to the Aids crisis, his First Symphony.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm.

ERMIONE: Mark Elder conducts The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in a performance of Rossini's *Ermione*, the powerful and unjustly neglected work based on Racine's tragedy *Andromaque*. The singers are Anna Caterina Antonacci, Gloria Scalchi, Keith Lewis and Bruce Ford.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071 928 8800), Sun, 7 45pm.

STARS FROM THE BOLSHOI BALLET: Bolshoi ballerina Natalya Bessmertnova is leading a company of 30 dancers on an extensive British tour beginning in Dartford and visiting 27 venues until July. Under the direction of Bolshoi director Yuri Grigorovich, the group performs the second act of *Giselle* presented with a selection of divertissements.
Orchard Theatre, Home Gardens, Dartford (0322 343333). Sun, 7.45pm

JOHN MELLENCAMP: Last seen here in 1988, American rocker *Mellencamp* plays two British dates.
NEC, Birmingham (021-780 4133), tonight, 7.30pm. **Wembley Arena**, Wembley, Middlesex (081-011 1234), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

THE HIGHWAYMEN: The cream of country comes to town as Johnny Cash teams up with Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson and Willie Nelson. Dates in Birmingham, Sheffield, Dublin and Belfast follow.
Wembley Arena (as above), tonight, 7pm.

MARK SPRINGER/SARAH SARHANDI: This piano and viola duo originally came together for offbeat improvisational bands such as Rip Rig & Panic and Float Up CP. More than a decade later, they now provide a more mature, almost classical sound
Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, 8pm

JUAN MARTIN AND THE DUENDE FLAMENCO DANCE COMPANY: A company of ten flamenco dancers and musicians demonstrate the rhythms, dances and songs of the tradition.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), tomorrow, 7.45pm.

THE ROYAL BALLET: Covent Garden's resident company continues its performances in Birmingham with a triple bill of Ashton's cool *Monotones*, MacMillan's Chekhov ballet *Winter Dreams* and Balanchine's glorious Bizet ballet *Symphony in C*.
Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Birmingham (021-622 7486), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm.

LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN: Last performance this season of John Schlesinger's production of the Offenbach opera, staged for the Royal Opera by Richard Gregson. Neil Shicoff sings Hoffmann; Jeffrey Tate conducts.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), tomorrow, 7pm.

ORFEO: English National Opera gives the last performance this season of David Freeman's admired production of the Monteverdi opera. Anthony Rolfe Johnson takes the title role; Harry Bicket conducts.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), tonight, 7.30pm.

37TH NATIONAL STUDENT DRAMA FESTIVAL: The one-week festival brings ten premieres of new works including the British premiere of Caryl Churchill's *Not Not Not Not Not Enough Oxygen*, a first NSDF production of Gilbert & Sullivan together with the better known *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* by Fo, and Miller's *The Crucible*. A strong programme of daily workshops will be led by actress Fiona Shaw and director Phyllida Lloyd.
The Spa, South Bay, Scarborough (0723 365068).

THE LITTLE TRAMP: A new musical about the life of Charlie Chaplin by the American composer David Pomeranz opens in Basingstoke and is expected to reach the West End by June. The television presenter Peter Duncan plays the classic comic.
Haymarket, Wote Street, Basingstoke (0256 465566), tonight, tomorrow, 7 45pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

☐ **BACK UP THE HEARSE AND LET THEM SNIFF THE FLOWERS:** The art of the salesman William Gaminara's comedy points out the tricks but simplifies deeper issues.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, Avenue Road, NW3 (071-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 120mins.

☐ **THE COTTON CLUB:** An impression of the Harlem nightspot high on energy, low on story freshness.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm

■ **DEATH AND THE MAIDEN:** Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in Ariel Dorfman's Chilean political drama. Best play of 1991.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 120mins

☐ **AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKER:** Sometimes droll look at the fantasies of a frustrated woman married to a soccer nut.
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (071-494 5075) Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 6pm and 8 45pm. 130mins

☐ **FROM A JACK TO A KING:** Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Sixties songs.
Boulevard, Walker's Court, off Peter Street, W1 (071-437 2661 after 2pm). Mon-Sat, 8.15pm, Fri late show, 10.30pm, mat Sat, 6pm, 90mins.

☐ **GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE:** Satisfying musical celebrating Fifties and Sixties pop classics. Great stuff.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue (071-839 4401) Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5 30pm and 8.30pm 135mins

◪ **HEARTBREAK HOUSE:** Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave head Trevor Nunn's splendid cast in Shaw's timeless, state-of-England drama.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 225mins.

■ **THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III:** Nigel Hawthorne is very fine as the stricken king in Alan Bennett's intriguing, slightly puzzling play.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight, tomorrow, 7 30pm, 2.15pm. 170mins.

◪ **MOBY DICK:** A girls' school puts on a fund-raising show. Tony Monopoly plays a headmistress playing Captain Ahab. Beached musical.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, Sat, 4pm. 135mins.

☐ **THE POCKET DREAM:** Foolish burlesque of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with Mike McShane and Sandi Toksvig. Dedicated fans only.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115) Tues-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat, Sun, 3pm. 135mins.

☐ **SOME LIKE IT HOT:** But what we get is lukewarm. Tommy Steele in poor musical version of the film.
Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Mon-Sat, 7 45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. 165mins.

☐ ***I STAND BEFORE YOU NAKED:*** Ten monologues for women by Joyce Carol Oates: dry, comic, tragic, recounting the perils of sexual harassment and desire.
Offstage Downstairs, 37 Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (071-267 0457). Tues-Sun, 8pm. 120mins

☐ **STRAIGHT AND NARROW:** Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Daglish and Carmel McSharry in likeable comedy about a dating mother's worries.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. 130mins.

■ **UNCLE VANYA:** Ian McKellen and Antony Sher outstanding in a Sean Mathias production that is subtle, balanced and tense with grief.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.30pm.

LONG RUNNERS: ◪ **Aspects of Love:** Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . . ◪ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (071-867 1044) . . . ◪ **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ◪ **Carmen Jones:** Old Vic (071-928 7616) ■ **Cats:** New London (071-405 0072) ☐ **Dancing at Lughnasa:** Garrick (071-434 5085) . . . ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner:** Apollo (071-494 5070) ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe:** Lyric (071-494 5045) . . . ■ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat:** Palladium (071-494 5037) . . . ☐ **Me and My Girl:** Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ **Les Misérables:** Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ◪ **Miss Saigon:** Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) . . . ◪ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) . . . ☐ **Return to the Forbidden Planet:** Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . ◪ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) ☐ **Thunderbirds F.A.B. — The Next Generation:** Ambassadors (071-836 6111) . . . ☐ **A Tribute to the Blues Brothers:** Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . . ☐ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information from SWET.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

THE DOCTOR (12) Callous surgeon (William Hurt) goes under the knife and becomes a better person. Familiar material, but lively treatment. Director: Randa Haines
Barbican *(071-638 8891)* **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **Odeon West End** (0426 915574) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

◆ **FINAL ANALYSIS** (15). Psychiatrist Richard Gere falls for patient's sister (Kim Basinger) and gets more than he bargained for. Over-tangled psychic melodrama, director Phil Joanou.
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279/379 7025) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

◆ **HOOK** (U) Grown-up Peter Pan returns to Neverland to fight Captain Hook. Much hard-pleasing spectacle, but little magic. With Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman, director, Steven Spielberg.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Marble Arch** (0426 915501) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

KIKUCHI: Days in the barren life of a laundry attendant. Quietly hilarious minimalist exercise from Japanese comic-strip illustrator Kenji Iwamoto
ICA (071-930 3647)

MEET THE FEEBLES (18) Odious Muppet-style puppet movie, aimed at adults, entirely juvenile in humour. Director Peter Jackson, New Zealand's.
MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) **MGM Panton Street** (071-930 0631), **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

DECEIVED (15): Goldie Hawn as the wife who doubts her husband's identity. Psychological thriller, weak on story, but strong on atmosphere. Stars John Heard; director, Damien Harris.
Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VERONIQUE (15): Krzysztof Kieslowski's brilliantly filmed conundrum about two girls (one Polish, one French) who seem to share a life. With Irène Jacob, Philippe Volter.
Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

HIGH HEELS (18): Lukewarm, talkative melodrama of family secrets from Spain's Pedro Almodóvar. With Victoria Abril and Marisa Paredes.
Gate (071-727 4043) **Lumière** (071-836 0691) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366).

◆ **KUFFS** (15): Immature police protection officer (Christian Slater) avenges the death of his elder brother. Flashy but feeble addition to Hollywood's cop comedies. Director, Bruce A. Evans.
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031).

◆ **MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO** (18): Gus Van Sant's quirky portrait of two drifters searching for a home: striking and aggravating by turns. With River Phoenix, Keanu Reeves.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279/379 7025) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520).

CURRENT

LA BELLE NOISSUSE — *DIVERTIMENTO* (18) Fascinating two-hour digest of Jacques Rivette's epic about the painter, his model and an unfinished canvas. With Michel Piccoli, Emmanuelle Béart
Minema (071-235 4225).

◆ **BUGSY** (18): Warren Beatty as the gangster who invented Las Vegas. Sleek, witty, dazzling to behold. Starring Annette Bening; director, Barry Levinson.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Marble Arch** (0426 915501) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

◆ **CAPE FEAR** (15) Demonic ex-con Robert De Niro terrorises Nick Nolte and family. Martin Scorsese's ferocious remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Jessica Lange, Juliette Lewis.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) **Empire** (071-497 9999) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Trocadero**

THEATRE

Fraternising with the enemy

Reflected Glory
Vaudeville

WHEN Tennessee Williams's mother first saw his *Glass Menagerie*, she reportedly jumped "like a horse eating briars", so unnervingly similar to her own were the main character's mannerisms. The protagonist of Ronald Harwood's enjoyable *Reflected Glory* goes further. His reaction to the discovery that he features in a play written by his brother is to roll the briars round his mouth, spit them out, emit a series of enraged whinnies, and charge balefully about the paddock, having first seated a lawyer in the saddle. It is a case not of publish and be damned, but perform and I'll sue.

The situation is set up with great brio. His colleagues are throwing a party for the dramatist Michael Manx, only to see it crashed by his brother Alfred (Albert Finney), estranged from him since trying and failing to suppress a play based on their parents. The aggrieved sibling, now a restaurateur, passes the time before the guest of honour arrives heavyhandedly congratulating touchy thespians on their television advertising work and angrily denouncing his brother. But when Stephen Moore's Michael ambles in, the warring words stop and the hugs and tears start.

Finney, a lumbering bull let loose among the theatrical *demi-tasses*, plays this superbly. He is canny and insensitive, menacing and genial, and, without patronising the character's Mancunian bluntness, very funny indeed. Michael then informs Alfred that his next play is about their boyhood and Alfred reactivates a solicitor who conveniently, if improbably, is both married to Michael's agent and a guest at the party.

Not irreconcilable: the brothers Michael (Stephen Moore) and Alfred (Albert Finney) in *Reflected Glory*

A lot of discussion about the morality of creative parasitism ensues. Moore's Michael, exuding ravelled self-absorption, makes some unexceptionable points about the writer's need to explore his formative experiences. Since the party occurs in a fringe theatre where a one-man play about Van Gogh is being staged (hence the sunflowers and squiggles of Saul Radomsky's set) much is also made of the subjectivity of art. But to Alfred this is a poncy attempt to justify an invasion of his privacy. Is it possible to reconcile his philistinism and his brother's pen?

That is the question Harwood asks, and he answers it even more ambiguously than he may realise. He certainly wants us to take into account the brothers' old, unresolved jealousies. Each may now be taking revenge on the other. But the explanations of their rivalry are also embodied in Michael's play, which Alfred has agreed privately to view before slapping any injunction on it; and it is obvious that *Brother Mine*, as it is called, could never be the success everybody assumes. Alfred should surely be threatening to ban something worth banning. The great masterpiece about his and Michael's growing pains is the kind of pretentious memory-play any critic would take pleasure in disembowelling.

Is that really the intention of Harwood and his director, Elijah Moshinsky? Earlier on, they have mocked the affectations of an acting profession amusingly represented by Nicky Henson and Mark Tandy. Here both play and production teeter uneasily between satire and seriousness. Still, a little loss of intellectual credibility does not seem too high a price to pay for what, all cavils aside, is a pretty civilised entertainment.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DANCE

Popular but not pleasing

White Oak Project
Sadler's Wells

THE second London programme of Baryshnikov's White Oak Project lies at the popular entertainment end of the modern dance spectrum. The two new works are both light-hearted extravaganzas, and the short works carried forward avoid the more severe aspects of the opening night. Nothing wrong with that, but neither of the new pieces has much to say for itself and both replace the company's excellent musicians with recordings.

Lar Lubovitch's *Waiting for the Sunrise*, by being a series of episodes mainly to old popular songs, invites comparison with Paul Taylor's *Company B*. But it lacks the undertones of Taylor's piece, and the choreographic subtleties too. Not even the musical arrangements are very attractive.

Luckily these dancers have the skill and experience to make the most of feeble material. Rob Besserer, in jokey treatments of "Tennessee Waltz" and (of all things) Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance", has the best choreography or at least makes it look so. Nancy Colahan briskly dispatches all her partners with a rose; Baryshnikov's moody solo and bittersweet duet with Kate Johnson are done with the cynical, world-weary charm he once brought to very similar but much better numbers in his Twyla Tharp repertoire.

Baryshnikov has had tough luck with the new works he commissioned to supplement his eclectic choice from among existing pieces. David Gordon's *Punch and Judy* (not yet seen in London) was booed in Paris for its feeble repetitive jokes.

Paul Taylor's *Oz* proves even worse: a mess of whimsy from a normally bankable choreographer. Not the story of the film, it introduces different characters presumably from the same author's works. Moments of invention, such as John Gardner's upside-down heel-to-heel cabrioles while cartwheeling across the stage, occasionally relieve the uninspired dance routines. Marianne Moore's scarf dance (under, not over the rainbow) is the best thing in it: Valda Setterfield's yackety maid-servant is the most embarrassing.

JOHN PERCIVAL

ROCK

Back to no future

Spirit of 77
Astoria

PART of punk rock's *raison d'être* was its rejection of nostalgia. Spirit of '77, a package show resurrecting five original punk bands, would have been unimaginable in 1977. But times change and circumstance sometimes forces a punk to do what a punk's gotta do.

There was a distinct lack of irony to the proceedings. Crumbling leather jackets had been specially fumigated and Mohican hair-dos treated to a touch-up. Thirtysomething fans pogoed as vigorously as they were able.

Kicking off were the venerable Chelsea, still led by Gene October, author of the first agitpunk single, "Right To Work". The intervening decades have not made their rackety rock any easier on the ear. October seemed pleased to be facing a crowd once more, though.

The Vibrators at least possessed a classic rock 'n' roll sensibility. Their style, incorporating pop and some blues, was relatively sophisticated. It was typified by their old hit, "Baby, Baby", which would not sound out of place on today's Radio One.

To have the Lurkers in the line-up was stretching the point. They peaked in 1979, long after most of the first punks had handed in their safety-pins. The singer announced that they are about to undertake a summer residency at Somerwestworld. Quite how holidaymakers will react to having their dinners spoiled by the Lurkers' grubby heavy metal is hard to imagine.

By far the most decrepit act was the UK Subs. Fifteen years ago they were no oil paintings and they are less savoury now. Coincidentally (or not), their bleak rock inspired the evening's wildest pogoing.

Nick Cash, of the headliners 999, remarked that "punk rock" is unquestionably "the best music ever". If one dared take issue, several beefy, tattooed Mohicans in the crowd were only too happy to set one straight.

Punk is currently enjoying an inexplicable revival and more gigs like this are planned. If only the groups had observed their original self-destruct-by dates.

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

CONCERT

Unfamiliar landscapes

RPO/Handley
Barbican

VERNON HANDLEY's enthusiasm for neglected English music helped build a programme with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra that also provoked fresh thoughts about some received opinions.

Three of the four works were from the early years of this century, plus Finzi's Cello Concerto of 1955, his last major work.

Finished a year before Finzi's death, it is the largest in scale of his works and reveals aspects of his musical personality seldom otherwise encountered: an uncommon vigour, a sense of chill foreboding in harmonic dissonance, and yet an almost carefree jauntiness in the finale.

Raphael Wallfisch had committed the solo part to memory as if it were familiar repertory. He brought a warm lyrical fulfilment to the romantic slow movement and elsewhere showed a passionate, articulate concern to maximise the music's poetry and minimise an element of awkwardness.

The orchestra gave the soloist reliable support, complementing forthright instrumental detail in two shorter works. One was Bantock's comedy overture, *The Pierrot of the Minute*, a delicately scored fantasy that began like another apprentice sorcerer but turned engagingly whimsical. More subtlety of colouring was needed to express the aching desire of Delius's *The Walk to the Paradise Garden*.

So to Vaughan Williams and *A London Symphony*, given an unusually tragic dimension in this performance. Not for Handley the patina of golden nostalgia over the music's tone-pictures. He touched a rawness of nerve in the underlying rhythmic pulse that made this journey down music's memory lane anything but complacent.

NOEL GOODWIN

ENTERTAINMENTS

ADELPHI 071 836 7611 cc 071 240 8244/379 6565/497 9977 no bkg fees Call 24hrs 071 379 6565/6566/6567 Grps 071 836 0971/3 NOW BOOKING TO 25TH NOV MIC AND MY GIRL THE LAUGH OF THE WEST Mon-Sat 8 Mats Wed & Sat 3 00 & 5 00 THE HAPPIEST SHOW IN TOWN! Sunday Times

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ALDWYCH 071 836 6404 cc 071 240 7942/379 6233/497 9977 no bkg fees Grps 071 240 6125 LONDON'S SMASH HIT MUSICAL "A sizzling, buoyant, swoonly show" Sunday Times THE COTTON CLUB Lavishly produced" Indep THE COTTON CLUB "The most dazzling tap-dancing I've ever seen" Daily Telegraph Eves 7.30 Mat Wed 3.00 Sat 4 & 8 NOW BOOKING UNTIL 5 SEPT

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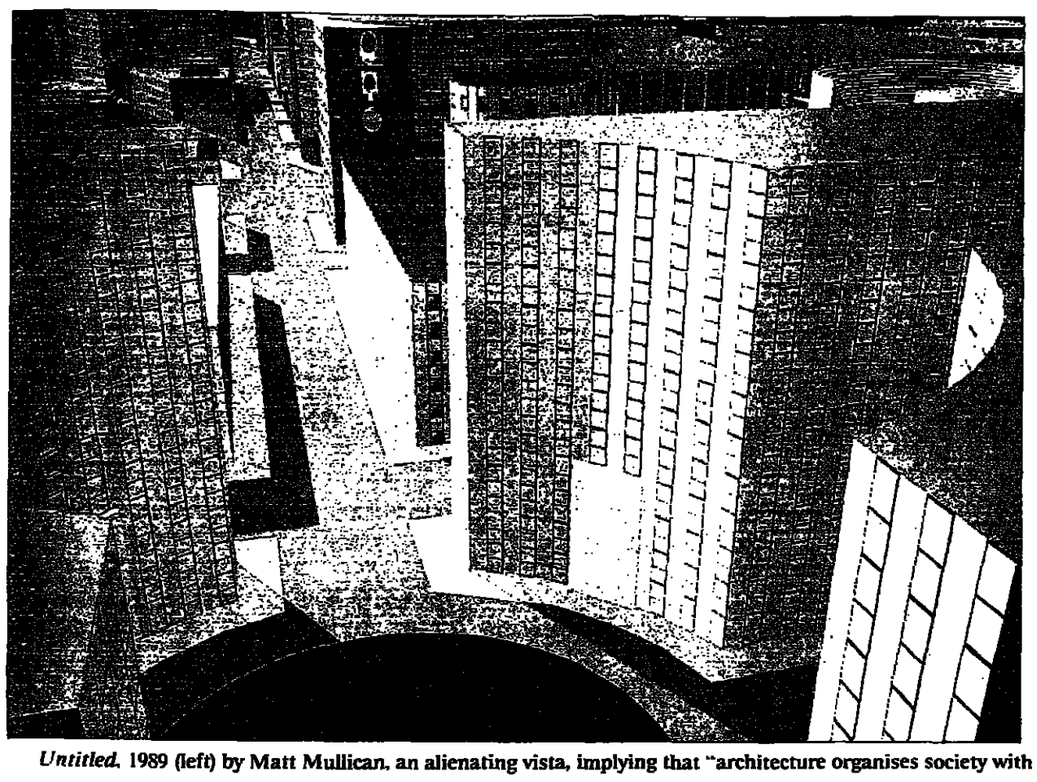
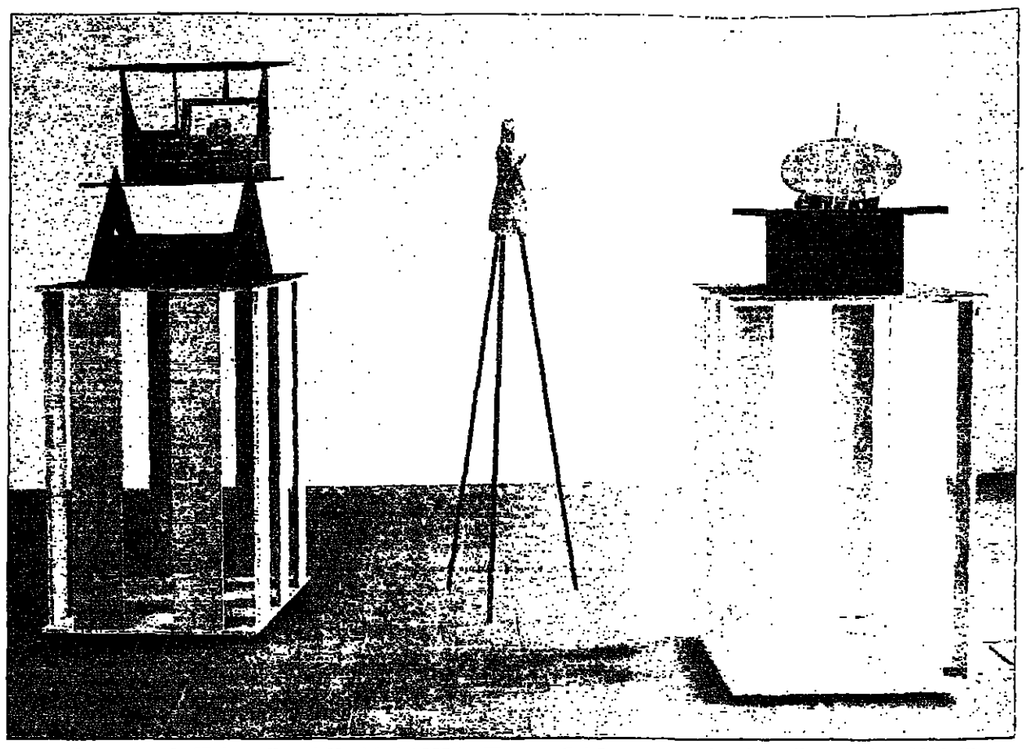




Untitled, 1989 (left) by Matt Mullican, an alienating vista, implying that "architecture organises society with remote, impersonal efficiency" and *Untitled*, 1985 by Thomas Schütte, "a playful absurdity worthy of Miró"

GALLERIES: LONDON

Building on speculation

Richard Cork reviews a show by 11 artists whose work both employs and implies references to architecture

Soon after the advent of the 20th century, artists with widely differing viewpoints became obsessed by their architectural surroundings. Since most of them lived in cities, the urban scene dominated the work they produced. Some, like the Italian Futurists, saw the metropolis as a powerhouse and lauded its energy. Others, such as Mondrian, reduced the structure of buildings to the same austere, disciplined geometry as the language in their own pared-down paintings.

By no means all these pre-1914 artists regarded architecture in a positive light. Think of de Chirico, whose eerily deserted piazzas are suffused with melancholy and frustration. Or Ludwig Meidner, appalled yet fascinated by an Expressionist vision of the modern city shuddering under the impact of seismic spasms. But what unites these disparate painters is the intensity of their involvement, fired by a belief that the built environment deserved to play a central role in their challenging art.

Judging by the Serpentine Gallery's international exhibition, which brings together 11 contemporary artists who employ architectural references, the same fundamental interest remains widespread as the end of the century approaches. Differences in emphasis are, however, evident at once.

No paintings can be found in a show devoted to sculpture, installation and photography. Nor do many of the participants depict urban surroundings as directly as their predecessors. Images of façades are hard to find, and in their place a more oblique, fragmented approach plays with our expectations at every turn.

Take the Iranian-born Siah Armajani, whose elaborate construction provides the show with its intriguing title: **Like nothing else in Tennessee**. The words come at the end of Wallace Stevens's poem *Anecdote of the Jar*, incorporated in the Armajani sculpture as blocks of type ready for the printing press.

The poem describes how Stevens, having placed a jar on a Tennessee hill, realised that the tall, round object tamed the encircling wilderness and "took dominion everywhere". But Armajani makes no attempt to illustrate its commanding presence in the rest of his sculpture. He builds an abstract cluster of wood, aluminium and stained-glass forms above, and they suggest doors, windows or shutters rather than the "grey and bare" container perched on Stevens' eminence.

A similar leaning towards country rather than town might seem to lie behind Dan Graham's exhibit. Placed on the lawn outside the gallery, it juxtaposes steel-framed sheets of glass with neat rows of blue Lawson cypress trees. Their foliage provides shelter for anyone sitting on the bench in the centre, but this air of rural serenity is disrupted by the perceptual confusion which Graham generates in the glass.

Two-way mirrors offer arresting reflections even as they supply indistinct evidence of other visitors and the parkland behind. A continually teasing labyrinth is created here, and its connections with the mirrored complexity of glass office buildings indicate that Graham's starting point probably rests in urban experience after all.

Matt Mullican, who displays large-format colour transparencies, "duratrans", in light boxes inside the gallery, focuses unequivocally on the city. Deploying garish computer-generated colour, which may owe something to the brilliant light of his native California, he presents a disturbingly uninhabited world of multi-storey blocks, empty boulevards and even a domed, temple-like edifice in pillar-box red.

Despite their functional appearance, Mullican's alienating vistas do not refer to real places. They were never meant to be built and imply instead that architecture organises society with remote, impersonal efficiency.

There is no room, in such a spotless but desiccated locale, for the people who might give it life. They are banished as firmly as in Julian Opie's nearby painted wood structure, which seems at first to encourage exploration of its maze-like passages. White on the outside and coloured within, this coolly perverse work ends up rebuffing investigation altogether. The passages, too narrow to be walked through, finally promote a painful awareness of exclusion.

Humanity no longer has a role to play in this clinical setting and a related sense of vacancy runs through an elaborate contribution by Langlands and Bell. The sources they rely on for *Ivrea*, where ten immaculate models of architectural plans are joined in a white-lacquered frieze, could hardly be more diverse. Olivetti's headquarters hovers above a welfare centre, while a machine tool factory hangs alongside multiple family houses for workers.

Whatever their function, and differences in layout, the delicately constructed wood reliefs all end up as testaments to social control. Even a combined community hall and restaurant looks unsettling, divorced from the needs of the people for whom it was designed.

At last, a solitary figure is discernible in the centre of Thomas Schütte's enigmatic contribution. But this strange, gaunt presence, precariously balanced on a tripod and swathed in rudimentary fabric, remains divorced from the two flanking parts of the sculpture.

Here, packing-case structures act as plinths for painted models reminiscent of stage-sets. Ladders lead nowhere while a colossal red fruit presides over a landscape, as Schütte conjures up his own universe with a playful absurdity worthy of Miró.

The entire ensemble seems fragile and could easily be broken by a couple of blows from the real axe lodged so aggressively in the rough planks of Ludger Gerdes's exhibit. By contrasting his axe with a flimsy little building on the other side of the work, Gerdes appears to be commenting that architecture relies on the decimation of natural resources. But his intentions remain obscure and I much preferred the deceptively plain-spoken contributions of Gerdes's fellow countryman, Jürgen Albrecht.

From the outside, his three thin, horizontal wall-pieces could hardly look duller. In grey cardboard, they resemble dour resumés of minimalist concerns. All this uncompromising restraint, however, acts as a foil for the quiet revelations inside each of Albrecht's pieces.

They open at one end, letting visitors peer inside. Subtly placed incisions in the cardboard allow bars of soft, paper-filtered light to irradiate these otherwise dark corridors. The effect is astonishingly seductive, re-enacting with the simplest of means the profound gratification which real architectural interiors can provide.

● Like nothing else in Tennessee *continues at the Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (071-402 6075), daily 10am-6pm, until April 26. Admission free*

THEATRE

And next week, Manchester

Jeremy Kingston meets Alain Boublil, the lyricist half of a team that created the musicals *Miss Saigon* and *Les Misérables*, whose success is now almost worldwide

The door bursts open and Alain Boublil hurtles in, hot foot from Paris where he has been taking another look at the French production of *Les Misérables*, theatrical phenomenon of our time. Since 1985 this operatic pageant of life and death on the barricades, for which he wrote the book and original French lyrics, and Claude-Michel Schonberg the music, has swept round the world.

Productions have been mounted in umpteen countries, and triumphed everywhere except in Sweden. Is it 20 productions? Thirty? If not yet 30, it eventually will be, as Boublil and his partners, with Cameron Mackintosh the guiding force, tick off the cities yet to be visited by the wide-eyed waif gazing out from a tricolour. Next week it is the turn of Manchester, where a production that already carries £4 million in advance bookings opens at the Palace Theatre. At the Palace Theatre in London the show still plays to capacity in its seventh year.

The hub of this worldwide enterprise is Mackintosh's offices in Bloomsbury. Boublil closes the front door, nods to the women at the desk and leads the way to a room on the top floor. He speaks rapidly, with a precise, elegantly inflected accent that might have made him a recording star in the days when a French accent was the royal route to an Englishwoman's heart. On the walls hang colour prints of mobs wielding sticks which, he quickly points out, illustrate the French Revolution that everyone knows about, whereas the revolution Victor Hugo brought into his novel *Les Mis* is the one of 1830.

However, that better-known revolution was the subject of the first musical Boublil and Schonberg wrote together. "I was in New York and I saw *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which suddenly showed me that the musical theatre was not in the hands of the old American geniuses telling American stories. The shows I was seeing — 'they are wonderful,' I was saying to myself, 'but there is nothing for me there. I don't relate.'

Boublil: *Jesus Christ Superstar* was a turning point

"I could see there was something different in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. The people behind that show had opera, classical and pop roots. The way the music was written and the way the lyrics were written was coming from a world that was the same as the world I was coming from, and the world Claude-Michel was coming from.

"Suddenly it was not the typical American musical with a dance routine in the middle, and with an American setting, and with a jazzy score. It was not something that only the Americans could do. This was the message I received that night. There could be a European musical. So I walked the New York streets and found the idea of the French Revolution. I talked to Claude-Michel and that's how we started to write our first musical."

A production of the show at the Palais des Sports, Paris, in 1973 was followed by the first version of *Les Misérables*, and three years later a friend played the recording of that show to Cameron Mackintosh, despite his protest that a French musical was a contradiction in terms.

After 20 minutes of the record he was convinced of the musical's theatricality. Then began the discussions that led to the creation of the second version with the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican, directed by Trevor Nunn and John Caird.

"*Les Misérables* took ten years to become its London version and it is still growing. Herbert Kretzmer, who has written the English lyrics, says that they are one-third a translation of my French lyrics, one-third a loose adaptation, where he is following the emotion, and the third third is what we can call a new creation.

"Songs such as "Stars" and Valjean's "Bring him Home" did not exist in the first French version and were directly written in English. So for the new French production, which is now in Paris, I have been altering my own first songs, translating Herbie's songs into French, and I have been changing and creating new things in a few scenes which are *now*" — and his voice becomes that of a conjurer bringing yet another rabbit from the hat — "being translated by Herbie back into English and will be in Manchester."

An altered song for the young Eponine will not be included, but perhaps this will arrive later, as the Manchester changes are incorporated into the London production, or into productions elsewhere. Copenhagen, Prague and Madrid will be seeing the show for the first time this year and the film version is already being prepared. Perhaps even Stockholm will be offered a second chance.

● Les Misérables *opens at the Palace Theatre, Manchester (061-236 9922) on Tuesday*

TELEVISION REVIEW

Comic relief in triple measure

What better pastime on election night than to watch an animated paper figure being flicked, stretched, squeezed, smudged and otherwise abused by a vindictive live-action hand? This was *Manipulation*, by Daniel Greaves, one of three British animated films bunched together in **Treble Top** (BBC2), a programme half-buried beneath repeats, comedy spots, rabbiting pundits and politicians, and the mighty neon swingometer.

Their tenuous link was that they had all been blessed by nominations or awards: Greaves's delicious jest, made for Tandem Films, won this year's Oscar for the best animated short. This was not the film to take British animation across new frontiers: by featuring interplay between an animated figure and its live-action creator, Greaves harked back to the Twenties and Max Fleischer's "Out of the Inkwell" series, where Koko the Clown emerged from an ink blob to scamper round Fleischer's studio.

Yet it was a genuine pleasure to see an old-fashioned conceit resurrected with such excellent timing and verve. The soundtrack played a crucial role, from the squelches that accompanied the little man's games with some spilt red paint to a symphony of thuds, squishes and boings. At the end of the battle, the man clambered free of his manipulator's wastepaper basket and stood briefly on the edge with a "Howzat!" smile: an uncertain finish, although unless you go for some Tom and Jerry brouhaha, ending cartoons has never been easy.

Greaves, a bright new talent, has grasped early the virtues of simplicity. Not so Ken Lidster, whose clay animation *Balloon* — the recent winner of the Bafta award for best animated short — tied itself in knots chasing a contrived story with a fussy array of styles.

First came a pirouetting girl, with cute squiggles of yellow hair and an adored red balloon. Then up popped an evil, cackling black-and-white clown, who carried away her pride and joy to a land of Heath Robinson torture machines. The girl ventured in pursuit, became trapped and was rescued by — you guessed right, dear reader. Technically, Lidster has much to offer, though he needs to stop showing off. A clean break from claustrophobic whimsy would help, too.

Peter Lord's *Adam*, a Bafta nominee, gave us another barrage of soundtrack squelches and another battle between creator and created. In place of the gloved hand in *Manipulation* came the live-action hand of God, plonking down a bewildered clay homo sapiens atop the earth's globe. Unlike its famous Aardman Animation stablemate *Creature Comforts*, no dialogue adorned this droll clay figure; in its place came over-insistent music, poking us in the ears.

Lord's pleasant fun and games reached an absurd anti-climax when God scooped out some clay, fashioned a mate and set down not Eve but a blinking penguin. Adam's face fell, but he decided to make the best of things. On election night, what else can you do?

GEOFF BROWN

CLASSICAL MUSIC

There's no substitute for a party

The price on my ticket for the **Philharmonia Orchestra** concert last Monday read £35. The original justification for such a figure, Carlo Maria Giulini, was, unhappily, indisposed and **Yevgeny Svetlanov** was the substitute conductor.

Most at home in the Tchaikovksy which constituted the first half, Svetlanov nevertheless did nothing very remarkable with the Polonaise from *Eugene Onegin*, scarcely moving a muscle. Admittedly, there is nothing very remarkable you can do with the piece anyway, except to play it fast and crisp, which is, it seems, the way Svetlanov likes most things.

After this opener we were given Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 2, "Little Russian". The same applied: a perfectly acceptable, brightly coloured, taut and generally brisk performance.

Svetlanov and Debussy, however, is a mixture to be relished like fish and chips and fine Burgundy. Both have their appeal, but not together. In the *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* one was forced quickly to understand that for Svetlanov Debussy cannot stand still and rely on its own atmosphere. For all the technically excellent playing on display (particularly from the principal flautist **Kenneth Smith**) and despite the innate richness of ensemble, the work seemed hurried, its colours clumsily blended, its phrases insufficiently languid for the hazy laze of a summer's afternoon to be conveyed convincingly by them.

And just the same over-urgency and inability to allow the music its proper context disfigured the mystery and majesty of *La Mer*. Climaxes, for instance that at the end of the first piece, "De l'aube à midi sur la mer", erupted with the excitement of a firework display, rather than with the natural power Debussy intended.

Conductor and music were more at one the following evening, when the **London Sinfonietta**'s latest contribution to the 1911-1920 sector of Simon Rattle's "Towards the Millennium" series took the form of a party at which the pieces invited represented a wide cross-section of styles and intentions. Rattle himself was absent, by force of design rather than of fate, but **Oliver Knussen** staked his own claims of conducting excellence with a lively and lucid account of Prokofiev's "Classical" Symphony to launch the evening. At the other end of the concert, Manuel de Falla's *El amor brujo* proved an equally friendly guest, with the mezzo **Mary King** relishing the chance to show off her dark, chesty Iberian manner in the five songs which the ballet contains.

Oliver Knussen: he shone in the role of conductor

After the Prokofiev came the utter contrast of Webern's Five Orchestral Pieces, Op 10, whose ultra-refined concentration was not quite matched by Schoenberg's curiously reticent *Herzgewächse*, Op 20, which followed it. Perhaps the latter's instrumentation of celeste, harmonium and harp had something to do with its somewhat inert flavour, or perhaps it was the extreme demands of the soprano part (bravely tackled by **Lucy Shelton**), which reaches to a sustained, quiet high F at the end. Knussen played both works twice: in each case, oddly, the second performance lacked the edge of the first.

How to follow such intense, distilled music? The answer again was with an antithesis, the atmospheric excess of Charles Ives's "Washington's Birthday", with its complex soundscape of sustained, weird string chords, its jew's harps, its tumbling, ghostly reminiscences of famous old tunes, its brash climaxes. And you could not hold such a party without asking that most versatile of guests, Stravinsky, so room was found for Shelton to sing elegantly with a small mixed chamber group the Three Japanese Lyrics of 1912 and the Two Poems of Balmont of 1911, music whose refinement was as far away from *The Rite of Spring* as you could get.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Bricks, bullets and Beirut

Parts of the city once known as "the Paris of the Middle East" are to be razed for redevelopment. Can the spirit of old Beirut survive? **Adam Kelliher** reports

War remains: the Martyrs Square statue for nationalists hanged by Ottoman rulers and (below) an artist's impression of plans for a palm-lined downtown Beirut

Where the war-blasted remains of downtown Beirut meet the Mediterranean sits the planned site of the city's renaissance: a looming, smelly peninsula of garbage.

The outcrop along the sweeping bay in which once rested one of the world's most elegant cities is expanded daily with contributions by municipal dump trucks. None of this inspires much attention at the adjacent St George's Motor Yacht Club, where the smart set strut, carouse and waterski.

"Half of us have money and half don't, and I am in the right half," said an affluent car salesman named Abed, as he langorously viewed nearby rag pickers from his sunbed. "Lebanon is the only country in the world where if you want to do anything, you can do it. Everything has a price tag."

In line with these principles, the fragrant mountain of refuse is to be transformed into prime real estate. It will be the starting point of a grandiose civic vision to erase within a decade the physical results of the 16 year long civil war that Syria forced to an end in October 1990. The downtown area, a basin in the inner city that was once a hazardous domain for snipers and their targets, is being razed by bulldozers and dynamite, despite opposition by various groups to the reconstruction strategy.

A lot of imagination is needed to see the heart of Beirut re-acquiring its sobriquet, the Paris of the Middle East. The place is more akin to post second world war Dresden. The green line marking the sectarian divide between Muslim west and Christian east sliced straight through the inner city. Alternative wartime capitals arose on either side of the divide, but none managed to supplant the contested heart of the city.

By every account, old Beirut was a magnificent city, of stone-arched alleyways and red-roofed mansions. Ottoman fountains and grand civic buildings in the best French imperial style. The grandeur was largely the result of profitable European trade with Syria after France pledged to protect Lebanese Christians in 1861. More disastrous than the war's physical damage, was the loss of what Beirut's heart represented. The city was the grand melting pot of the Levant, where Druze, Maronite Christians, Shia Muslims, Armenians, anyone in fact, worked and lived and overcame tribal and religious rivalries.

Today, the two square mile swathe of destroyed inner city is caught in a strange time warp of 1975, with movie posters, advertisements and fixtures dating from the year the futile business began. Within the endless blocks of blasted boutiques, department stores, restaurants and offices are a labyrinth of firing positions from which rival gunmen blazed away at each other. Although entire high rise buildings have been chiselled away by ordnance, ornate ironwork and classic façades, can still be glimpsed. And the rubble still holds memories.

"You see over there," said Noor Mohammad, a taxi driver, gesturing to a blitzed alleyway, "that was the Kit Kat Club, where we used to dance. Down further was the red light district, where the sailors would go. You cannot imagine how beautiful it all once was."

The new vision of Beirut looks something like Docklands with palm trees. Under a plan forwarded by the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR), and backed by a coterie of property developers, politicians and cronies of the Syrian-installed government, the city will largely be bulldozed into the sea on top of the rubbish dump. This man-made piece of seaside property would be shaped into an 800,000 square metre island and sold to the private sector. These funds would be used to pay the estimated US$350 million required for new streets, water, power and communications.

With this civic infrastructure in place, ensuing reconstruction will then be at the mercy of investor confidence. The CDR says US$12 billion has been pledged by various property magnates. Instrumental is the involvement of Rafik Hariri, a Lebanese billionaire enriched by projects in Saudi Arabia, who wants to be known as the man who resurrected Beirut. His aides say Mr Hariri has spent US$20 million in feasibility studies.

Should full-scale redevelopment commence, facilities will include a 40-storey world trade centre, a concert hall, a national library, a cultural palace, and a marina.

Officials say they wish to preserve some of old Beirut. The plan includes restoration of stable buildings of architectural merit, namely the old souks, the ornate façades of the old banking district, and importantly, mosques and churches. Architectural styles have yet to be finalised, but the outcome will certainly be modernist.

The goal is highly ambitious for a city known more for random death. Everything could be suddenly unstuck by the Middle East peace process unravelling; Christian, Palestinian or Hezbollah adventurism; or a power struggle in Syria if President Hafez Assad's mortality is proven. Henri Edde, the project director, is calling for prompt action before squatters take residence in the inner city's ruins. Legions of homeless have overrun districts near the airport, preventing large scale redevelopment.

"I can't accept the attitude of wait and see. We have to force our own destiny," says Mr Edde, a respected architect who has designed several large modernist buildings in Lebanon. "If people will not invest, Beirut will remain as it is."

That the ultimate conquerors of one of the world's most bitterly contested stretches of real estate are not ambitious warlords but rapacious property developers may be a fitting end to the war. But rebuilding is fraught with the same divisions that caused the fratricide.

Many Christians hold property deeds for the devastated zone. Their opposition to the CDR is near uniform, mostly because they consider the council tainted by its linkage to the Syrians.

"The project will alter the sensitive demographic balance of the strategic downtown area that lies between east and west Beirut," warned Rima Tarabay, of the Christian Lebanese Forces militia.

Property owners will have to accept shares in a real estate company appropriating property to carry out the scheme. Compensation will be set by government evaluation committees, a move Mr Edde says is crucial if investors are not to be scared away by excessive tenancy rights.

One of the most vehement opponents is Yvonne, Lady Cochrane, the widow of an Irish lord whose profits as a merchant enabled him to purchase vast chunks of pre-war east Beirut. Lady Cochrane lives in a gothic chateau set in a vast garden overlooking Beirut port, its grandeur matched by an air of decay. A sweeping external marble staircase is cracked and chipped, patches on inside walls show where oil paintings were once displayed. Lady Cochrane, a polyglot of Italian descent, believes that the CDR's plans are merely a way to "speculate at our expense. The whole country would theoretically be owned by a company. Can you imagine such a thing? There will be a revolution when people realise that their property has been taken and the shares are worthless."

Mr Edde counters that pleasing everyone in Lebanon has never been easy. He thinks the plan will prove the intentions of Syria, which presumably wants Beirut revived so Lebanon can again start making more money for Damascus.

Much of the opposition is because landlords wish away the war, and want nothing less than compensation at a 1975 property price, adjusted to subsequent inflation. Investment pledges have mostly come from Sunni Muslims, such as Mr Hariri, but the plan gets little backing from Shia Muslims, who largely live in Beirut's southern ghettoes and justly believe they are given scant attention by the government. The Druze, the other major clan, also have misgivings.

Despite the volley of complaints, the combination of the Syrians and the high level patrons backing the scheme virtually guarantees its progress.

Whatever the outcome, one civic fixture that will survive is the monument in Martyrs Square for nationalists hanged by Ottoman rulers during the first world war. Like everything else in downtown Beirut, the bronze statues have been punched through with bullets and shrapnel.

Perhaps if the physical evidence of more recent bloodshed is erased, bitter memories may also recede

Remains to be decided

Most people in Britain choose to be cremated but finding somewhere to scatter the ashes can be tricky

Silvia Lucking desperately wanted her ashes scattered on the big wheel at Blackpool. "We had to do it when no one was looking because we knew we wouldn't get permission," says her daughter, Rachel, who with her sisters was determined to honour her mother's decision when she died. "We only scattered a few and at first we couldn't stop laughing but then the wind blew the ashes out over the sea and it was really very beautiful. I think it helped bring us all closer together."

The Romans built mausoleums for them and the Hindus cast them onto the waters of the holy Ganges in Varanasi but in modern Britain finding somewhere to scatter the ashes of a loved one can still be difficult.

Some Sikhs in Yorkshire have decided they would like to scatter the ashes of their dead on the waters of the the River Wharfe at Wetherby, near Leeds. According to Prem Sangh Duggal, of the Sikh Temple in Chapeltown, the river would make an ideal resting place. "At the moment we have nowhere special to us. We want to have a proper site so all our families can pay their last respects, with a jetty so that they can easily get to the middle of the water, and provisions for the relatives. I think it would be very beautiful to have one's ashes scattered on these tranquil waters," he says. Local residents are less poetic. There is a picnic area near the site and some people are concerned about stray ashes, according to a spokesman for Leeds council. Others are worried about river pollution and some just find the whole idea macabre.

Burning issues: traditional scattering of ashes on water

Three quarters of Britons now go up in smoke, but few of their relatives seem to know what to do with their remains. Cremation laws require that the disposal of remains is determined by the person who organises the cremation. Most want to leave the ashes with the crematorium and they are then scattered or buried in a garden of remembrance or in a local cemetery. Only a few people have specific requests and then they need to get the consent of the landlord of the land on which they wish to scatter or the National River Authority if they wish to cast the ashes on a river, unless they are prepared to go out three miles to sea.

Football pitches, the winning posts at Aintree and Lords cricket ground (for those who are honorary life members) are popular spots. Jason Edwards's father was a keen fisherman and when he died his son scattered his ashes over the Thames in Oxfordshire. "He hadn't made any plans but it seemed appropriate to let him end his days with the fish," he says. He admits that many of his family disagreed.

Susan Crosland, in her biography of her husband Tony Crosland, the former Labour foreign secretary, explains the difficulties of scattering her husband's ashes over the North Sea while a gale was blowing and the boat was filling with water. "Each handful that I threw into the sea was returned by the gale", she wrote. Eventually she had to throw in the whole urn.

David Adams believes that people should not be deterred from scattering ashes and should not be too squeamish. He spent four years training to be registrar of the cemeteries and crematorium department for Southend borough council. "If scattered liberally, ashes are nutritious for the soil and are totally safe, all they are are calcinated bones," he says. "They are also environmentally sound because they do not take up any room and return nutrients to the soil. The bodies go in at 1,000 degrees centigrade so I can guarantee the ashes are sterile and they do not give off an odour."

About 2 per cent of Mr Adams's clients decide to scatter the ashes somewhere original. Mr Adams feels that people don't like to think about the remains while they are still grieving and many relatives decide only later that they might like to scatter the ashes somewhere else. By this time it is normally too late. After a month, many crematoria have planted the ashes in gardens of remembrance and a licence from the Home Office is needed to dig them up. If people do want to keep the ashes, Mr Adams will send them in a sealed plastic case by recorded delivery.

Janet Haddington, the chair of the National Association of Bereavement Services, feels that scattering the ashes has a therapeutic effect on the bereaved. "Many of the bereaved leave it up to the crematorium and are left disgruntled and unhappy," she says. "Then when they want to, they can't find the rosebush under which their deceased was buried or they are too embarrassed to ask. Those who take their ashes with them and scatter them in memorable places usually recover more quickly."

One Asian woman, Ms Haddington knows, kept her husband's ashes for a year to comfort her and then took them to India and scattered them on the Ganges; another family took the ashes of their father, who had been a lorry driver, and scattered them on the Great North Road. "You have to make sure there is agreement on the place and it is not a good idea to keep the ashes at home for too long otherwise they can become like a shrine," Ms Haddington says. She would like her ashes scattered over the Yorkshire Dales.

No one will ever outdo Queen Artemisia. When her husband Mausolus, a satrap of Caria in Asia Minor, died in 353 BC, she built a monument to house his ashes at Halicarnassus which was so splendid that it was regarded by the ancients as one of the seven wonders of the world. She was also said to have kept a few to sprinkle on her wine every evening as a tribute to his memory.

ALICE THOMSON

Learning to become life savers

Ann Kent reports on a conference on cot death where parents and scientists met to discuss how best to avoid bereavement

Two very different groups of interested parties can be found at conferences on cot death: the bereaved parents and the scientists.

They mixed uneasily last weekend at the first national conference held by the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (FSID). A silence fell over the audience of 300 — half of them parents — as Dr Ruth Wigfield described the disastrous effects of advice given to mothers from the early 1970s onwards.

Dr Wigfield, a research fellow at the University of Bristol, explained that studies carried out at that time on ailing premature babies showed they found it easier to breathe if they were laid down to sleep in the prone position (on their fronts). It eased the breathing in a tiny minority of infants whose lungs and chests were underdeveloped, and made them less likely to inhale vomit. "It was felt that this advice would benefit all babies, and as it was widely adopted cot deaths became more common in Britain, New Zealand and Sweden," Dr Wigfield said. She became involved in investigating the increase because the county of Avon, where she is based, had a higher-than-average cot death rate.

Sudden infant death syndrome is not a diagnosis, but another way of saying 'we don't know'

On questioning parents, the research team discovered an almost ninefold increased risk of cot death when the baby slept prone. As a result, Avon changed its advice on sleeping position in the late 1980s: cot death rates dropped from 3.5 per thousand in the late 1980s to 1.7 per thousand in 1991. "The change in sleeping position can almost completely account for the fall in deaths," Dr Wigfield said.

Researchers in Avon made a point of contacting bereaved parents involved in the study to warn them, in advance of publication in the medical journals, of their findings.

The foundation started the campaign to reverse the advice that babies should sleep on their fronts last October. The health department started issuing the same message at the beginning of this year. Everyone attending the weekend conference must have already known about the appalling error.

But it was one thing to read about it and quite another to hear about it sitting in a room full of parents, all remembering the moment when they found their baby had died in its cot or pram.

There was no emotional scene, simply a chilly silence as the audience concentrated on what Dr Wigfield had to tell them. She told the meeting that she believed all parents of newborn babies should lie them on their backs and continue to do so until they reached the point where they chose their own sleeping posture, at the age of five or six months. The side position, which some parents adopt as a compromise, is two or three times more dangerous than sleeping on the back, although less risky than the prone position.

Dr Wigfield's audience of parents did not question this shifting of goalposts, or Dr Wigfield's essentially accurate statement that "it is exciting and rewarding to see research working, and to have fewer babies dying". They were there to learn. Scientists and parents share a common aim in seeking to understand cot death. But their agendas are very different.

Parents at the conference listened to the scientists' clinical descriptions of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) in an attempt to make sense of what had happened in their own families. The credibility of the scientists depended on finding the right theory — and there have been many wrong ones — to explain the annual UK death toll of 1,400 infants. SIDS is not a diagnosis, but merely another way of saying "we don't know".

With cot death there are no signs and symptoms and nothing much to be found from post-mortem tests on the baby. The scientists depend on the cooperation of recently bereaved parents willing to recall every detail of their baby's last hours, and their childcare routines. It was thanks to this assistance that the scientists have made a partial breakthrough.

People who are less emotionally involved than the parents attending the conference may wonder whether they should follow the new guidelines. But over the last few years the evidence about sleeping position has built up from a number of different studies. It makes sense in a way which the 1970s advice did not. The new advice is simply the old guidance, followed for centuries and still routine in parts of the world with lower cot death rates than our own, that babies sleep on their backs.

Have the 19 years of research funded by the FSID at a cost of £6 million simply taken us round in a circle? In fact, the conference heard that a number of other advances have been made in the struggle to whittle down the numbers of babies who succumb. But the work involved some fairly advanced physiological investigations, which suggest causes rather than cures.

Dr Stewart Petersen, for example, described how babies' night time sleeping temperatures switch from a newborn to an adult pattern at two to three months of age. Dr Petersen, a lecturer in physiology at the University of Leicester, has found that late developers show a similar profile to cot death babies: they are more likely to be boys, bottle fed, with young, poorer mothers, and to sleep prone. (In fact three boys die of cot death for every two girls, breastfed babies also succumb, and while cot deaths are more common in the poorer socio-economic groups, nearly half the cases come from social classes I, II and III and can be born to mothers of any age.)

The complex links between body temperature and erratic breathing patterns were also explored — although cause and effect cannot be proven. Everybody gasped when they heard how one baby girl managed to maintain a normal body temperature while sleeping in a room temperature of 27C wearing several layers of clothing, under an adult quilt folded four times. Many researchers feel that some vulnerable babies have less efficient temperature control mechanisms and that these babies are at increased risk of SIDS if they are overwrapped. Lying prone is thought to make it more difficult for an infant to shed heat.

Another research area considered promising by the scientists was respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), one of the commonest causes of lower respiratory tract infection in infants. Pathologists are now able to detect traces of the virus in post-mortem specimens and RSV is believed to have been implicated in some cot death cases. Research from Avon and North Somerset has shown, however, that viral infection does not appear to be a risk factor on its own. Cot death rates increase when babies with signs of infection are also overwrapped.

Such information contributes to the understanding of the disease process and may be useful one day. For bereaved parents, it must have been of purely academic interest.

Joyce Epstein, the secretary general of FSID, was keen to stress that we had not reached the end of the cot death story. She wants to see the new advice scientifically assessed to see if it is being put into effect, and if it really does make a difference. The foundation's advice to parents, apart from placing babies on their back or side to sleep, is to make sure they do not get too hot, to stop smoking, to avoid taking babies into smoky atmospheres and to contact your doctor if you think the baby unwell.

Parents who attended the conference had considered and accepted the risk that unhappy memories would rise to the surface. Nobody can be blamed for the fact that medical research is unable to account for a problem which has blighted the happiness of families for centuries. At least the problem is now discussed openly and no longer automatically attributed to overlaying (when a baby is accidentally suffocated while in bed with parents) or thought to be a sly form of infanticide.

A group of mothers, discussing their feelings between sessions agreed their grief had been most effectively relieved by having another baby. Not just to refill the empty cot, or to give them someone else to love, they said, but to restore their confidence as parents who could raise babies, just like their mothers, sisters and neighbours.

● *Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, 35 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QB (071 235 0965) Helpline: 071 235 1721.*

Sleeping more safely? Babies on their backs are less likely to succumb to cot death, although body temperature and respiratory viruses are also possible causes

Walk on — but calmly

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

GRAEME SOUNESS will probably be in hospital for eight to ten days after his triple bypass operation and then will spend three months recuperating in order to be able to join the Liverpool team when they restart training in July. How should he spend the next three months so that he may thereafter have the best chance of a long, healthy and fulfilling life?

Three hundred delegates met at a symposium arranged by the Harley Street Clinic in London last week to discuss rehabilitation after coronary thrombosis, or major heart surgery. There was universal agreement that a carefully planned return to full physical activities, and hence to a normal lifestyle, had great psychological advantages for the patient.

Patients who had undergone a supervised rehabilitation course felt better, more confident, took pride in their achievements and were more likely to return to their previous work. It was generally accepted, too, that any rehabilitation programme needed to be carefully structured and should include arrangements for the monitoring of the health of the patient throughout.

The experts found it more difficult to agree as to whether a return to a vigorous lifestyle would necessarily reduce the risk of a recurrence of the heart problem and therefore lead to a longer life. A cardiologist explained that although the rehabilitation course might ensure that the limb muscles became stronger and more efficient, these changes were not always matched by similar improvements in heart function: indeed, the damaged heart might not always be able to cater for the increased demands made on it by a strong pair of legs as they pounded along the pavements. Ideally rehabilitation needs to be supervised and tailored for the individual patient, a service that could prove too expensive for the ordinary coronary care unit.

The news that Mr Souness needed a bypass at the age of 38 as he had already had one undetected heart attack, and that he also had one coronary artery which was 90 per cent blocked and another 70 per cent, sent a shudder through any early morning joggers who might have convinced themselves, and others, that the key to a clean coronary artery is regular violent physical exercise.

Mr Souness played first-class football from 1972 to 1990 and since he became manager of Liverpool has prided himself on keeping as fit as his team. He does an hour's hard physical training each day, and plays five-a-side football at least three times a week. He has watched his diet, doesn't smoke cigarettes and drinks in the strictest moderation. The Souness case illustrates that there is a limit to the problems that exercise alone can overcome. Mr Souness has inherited the wrong genes and there is little we can do about our ancestors; his uncle died of a coronary thrombosis at the age of 35 and his father has also had a bypass.

Mr Souness has a raised blood pressure but perhaps most important of all he has a type A, competitive personality. He admits to being fiercely competitive since the age of 11 and now every minute of the day is filled, he is ambitious and always plays to win. Rehabilitation for Mr Souness should not only include graduated physical exercises, carefully monitored, but should also contain advice on how to become more of a type B personality, relaxed and easy going.

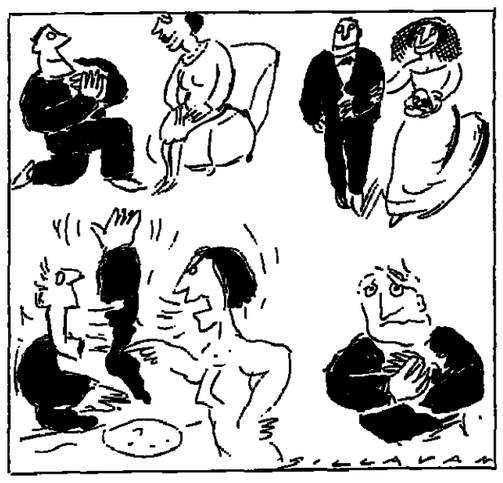
Separate disorders

DESPITE a few well publicised difficulties, the Ashdowns and the Clintons have stayed together, and in doing so they may have preserved their health as well as their marriages and political careers. Divorce can prove fatal.

One-Plus-One, a research group from the Central Middlesex hospital, has produced a report entitled *Marital Breakdown and the Health of the Nation*. The research, reviewed in *Doctor* magazine, showed that people with marital problems are nearly three times more likely to go in the first instance to their GP to seek help than to marriage counsellors or social workers.

Dr Jack Dominian, the director of One-Plus-One, estimates that 70 per cent of patients have social or psychological problems — in women mainly due to personal relationships, although in men this came second to problems at work. Divorced patients are four times more likely to commit suicide, and up to six times more likely to be admitted to a mental hospital.

Divorce is an important factor in assessing the risk of coronary arterial disease and strokes. Divorced men under 55 are twice as likely to have a coronary and nearly three times as likely to have a stroke as those who stay married. Nor should divorced women necessarily think that they will be "better off without *him*", because although their arterial health is not as vulnerable as men's to divorce, the incidence of cardiovascular disease is 50 per cent higher than in married women.



Cancer as well as heart disease is more common in the divorced, and the chances of survival if one or other does develop are reduced. Cancers of the throat, the lungs, the guts, the bladder and in men the prostate are all more likely.

Inevitably statistics of this sort fail to distinguish between those whose character or behaviour initially contributed to the divorce and those whose health was undermined after it by neglect, loneliness, diet, drinking and smoking.

More than a speed trap

THE policeman lurking behind the shrubs on the lay-by with a radar gun may be sacrificing more than he thinks as he battles to stop motorists speeding — his testes may be in danger.

The journal *Cancer Weekly* reports that seven of the 244 policemen in Grand Rapids and Wyoming in the United States who wield the gun have later developed cancer of the testes; one is suing the manufacturer.

Radar guns are not the only devices that have recently come under suspicion. In Britain a doctor practising near the television and radio transmitter at Solihull reports that in one practice with 2,600 patients, seven have developed leukaemia or lymphoma. All bar one lived within 1,500 metres of the transmitter for at least 14 years and strangely the practice did not have any patients with these diseases outside this range.

Policemen, and West Midlanders, can probably rest assured — medical research is frequently confused, and patients alarmed, by statistical flukes.

No gain, just pain

Yoga can be as punishing as any Olympic sport, as **Liz Hodgkinson** discovered

When I signed up for yoga classes two years ago, I confidently expected that I would be able to release stress and anxiety, bring mind and body into harmony, improve my sleep and get rid of my neck and shoulder cramps.

All this happened — and more. As I progressed, I was delighted to be able to regain much of the athleticism and acrobatic ability of my childhood. I could still do the backbend! I could stand on my head! I could bend forward and put my head on my knees!

So far, so good — until my enthusiasm for attempting ever more-advanced postures resulted in my developing a hernia and then dislocating a facet joint in my lower back. The hernia means I will have to go into hospital to have the spilling gut sewn back in place under general anaesthetic. I was in agony with the back problem until I had the joint yanked back into place by a chiropractor.

Before I started advanced yoga classes, I was in perfect physical health. So what went wrong? Isn't yoga supposed to be gentle, relaxing, calming — and safe?

Well, yes and no. Yoga is rapidly becoming the most popular method of relaxation and stress management, and recent clinical trials in hospitals in America and Europe have established that it can be extremely therapeutic, and help with diabetes and asthma, bring down high blood pressure and even reverse coronary heart disease.

When it's taken very gently, that is. But there is also an "Olympic" side to yoga, which is extremely strenuous and highly demanding of the body, and if you suddenly take up strenuous yoga after years of physical inactivity, as I did, you can expect your body to rebel.

When I ripped and tore my gut and put my back out, I was doing advanced postures such as the cobra, whereby you lie on your stomach and arch the back in order to touch your head with your toes.

The other yoga fact is that although about 80 per cent of practitioners in the West are women, it was originally designed more than 2,000 years ago for men's bodies, which are generally stronger and more muscular and do not have an internal reproductive system.

Even nowadays, women are advised to abstain from some of the more exotic postures (such as the peacock, where the elbows are dug tight into the sides of the body in order to lift it off the ground) because of possible damage to the reproductive system. Inverted postures, such as the headstand and shoulderstand, are not recommended during menstruation.

Dr Robin Munro, a former molecular biologist who since 1983 has run the Yoga Biomedical Trust to put yoga on a modern, scientific basis, agrees it can be dangerous.

"There are several different types of yoga, ranging from those which simply relax the mind and body to those where there is a strong emphasis on high-level performance. It's here that injuries can occur," he says. Typically the injury will be to muscles and joints: knee joints are particularly vulnerable.

"With the more strenuous types of yoga, there are exactly the same dangers as with any other sport. Most world-class athletes sustain many injuries and, in this, yoga is no different. People tend to think that yoga classes are all the same, whereas they vary considerably."

For therapeutic purposes, Dr Munro suggests the yoga should be very gentle. Yoga, he adds, can be very good for conditions such as PMT and migraine, if it is related to breathing, rather than doing yoga which revolves around complicated postures. But people who are not in good health should not consider "postural" yoga.

"The problem is that people become very competitive," Dr Munro says. "All good teachers will emphasise that members of the class are not in competition with each other, but it's hard to stop people competing against themselves, trying to achieve a posture that has defeated them."

There are special dangers, he says, for women. "You'll notice in most yoga classes that the women are far more supple than the men. But that extra male stiffness is actually a protection against injury in yoga. One of the reasons men are less supple is because they have stronger muscles, and strong muscles are more difficult to bend."

A good teacher should point all this out, Dr Munro says, and should also watch to see whether any members of the class are straining themselves beyond their limits. Although it is good to push yourself at first, the idea behind yoga is to sustain postures without pushing or straining.

As with most exercise classes, anybody can set up as a yoga teacher without having any proper training. Injuries are less likely to happen when teachers have trained with a recognised school, but of course they can never be ruled out.

Established schools of high-level yoga such as Iyengar and Sivananda, which are extremely strenuous, insist on proper training programmes for their teachers. The British Wheel of Yoga, which runs classes all over the country, is gentle and relaxing, and would appeal more to people wanting to reduce stress.

"Most of the clinical studies have taken place with gentle forms of yoga," Dr Munro says. "We now need to carry out trials with postural yoga, to see just what health benefits it can bring."

● *More information and advice on classes from The Yoga Biomedical Trust, PO Box 140, Cambridge CB1 1PU (enclose large sae).*

FAUSTO DORELLI/THE BOOK OF YOGA

Don't try this at home: advanced yoga postures such as the wheel can be dangerous to your health

Hidden mark of the wolf

A conference next week will try to bring lupus, the killer illness, out into the open

Thousands of women who may not realise that they are suffering from the mysterious illness called lupus may be helped by an international conference to be held in London next week. The organisers hope that one of the results of the three-day congress for research scientists from all over the world will be to alert general practitioners to the fact that lupus is far more common than they believe.

"The textbooks of my generation relegated it to the small print at the back of the book," says Britain's leading expert, Dr Graham Hughes, consultant physician at the lupus clinic at St Thomas's and head of the lupus research unit. "They believe it to be a rare disease. It isn't." Worldwide, lupus affects one in 1,000 women, although in certain countries, such as Jamaica, it can be as many as one in 250. In Britain an estimated 25,000 people suffer from lupus, the vast majority of them without knowing it.

> 'In some ways, it is the opposite of Aids'

Until the illness is correctly diagnosed it cannot be successfully treated and may ultimately prove fatal. In such cases, death may be caused by kidney failure, brain disease or strokes.

Lupus, known as the wolf disease because of a butterfly-shaped facial rash resembling a wolf bite which may afflict some sufferers in its early stages, is a disorder of the body's immune system. "In some ways," Dr Hughes says, "it is the opposite of Aids. The immune system is in overdrive, producing too many antibodies, which may cause problems in any organ in the body." Ninety per cent of its victims are women — most of them aged between 15 and 40.

Dr Hughes's pioneering research has revealed a clotting factor in some lupus sufferers which causes patients to have a tendency to thrombose. The discovery has had wide implications, not just for lupus sufferers, but for some women who suffer recurrent miscarriages because of the blood supply to the baby being cut off, and who can now be successfully treated with anti-coagulants such as aspirin. "There's a lot of new work on the basic aspects of this clotting mechanism," Dr Hughes says. "There are probably hundreds of people throughout the country who have gone into dementia as the result of recurrent small strokes when they were young because they have an antibody in the blood which interferes with normal clotting."

The precise cause of lupus is still a mystery, although medical scientists believe that heredity, hormones and infections — including viruses — are involved. It can lie dormant until activated by a variety of factors, including sunlight, the aftermath of pregnancy, certain drugs and stress.

One of the difficulties in diagnosing lupus is the fact that its symptoms resemble those of many other ailments, resulting in its nickname of the Great Pretender. They include muscle and joint pain, migraine, fever, allergies, headaches, chest pain, skin rashes, depression and fatigue.

"Many young women are diagnosed as having pre-menstrual headaches or glandular fever or ME [myalgic encephalomyelitis]," Dr Hughes says.

Once diagnosed, the disease is containable with drugs, primarily steroids. "People used to overtreat with steroids," says Dr Hughes, who sees up to 70 patients at his weekly clinic, "but now we use much lower doses and milder medicines. Now you can fine-tune the disease."

Among the scientists at next week's conference will be Dr Robert Lahita, the director of rheumatology at St Luke's Hospital in Manhattan and chairman of the board of the Lupus Foundation of America. He has been researching the use of sex steroids such as progesterone — a strong pregnancy hormone that inhibits the immune function — in the control of the disease. "We might be able to use that in the near future," Dr Lahita says, "and get beyond cortisone, which is the staple of therapy right now."

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French cars are catching up

While the Japanese worry British makers, France is making inroads, Kevin Eason says

The third force nudging Ford and Vauxhall over the next few years may not be Japanese, as the British motor industry has feared. So many eyes have been focused on the expansion of Japanese manufacturers that few have noticed the quiet progress of the company that has nudged Rover out of its position in the new car market.

PSA, the manufacturer of Peugeots and Citroëns, is now the third biggest company selling in the United Kingdom. While Rover has fallen by the wayside so far this year, figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show the Peugeot and Citroën marques defying the recession and taking a record share of the market.

Peugeot, which makes the 405 mid-range model at Ryton, Coventry, has shot up in popularity and is accounting for 8.16 per cent of all sales. Alongside that has been the rapid development of Citroën, now taking just over 4 per cent of all new car sales in Britain.

Combine the two and PSA has a market share of 12.17 per cent in the first quarter of the year, up from 10 per cent at the same point last year and better than Rover's dwindling 11.96 per cent.

The rise and rise of PSA has been remarkable, yet unsurprising, given the powerful range of small cars that the two companies now field against some tired-looking opposition.

Manufacturers that rely on big cars to help prop up sales figures have suffered because of the slump in the market for executive models. Rover, for example, launched its new 800 series right into the mire of an executive market down by 21 per cent this year, which is almost twice the rate of decline for the whole market.

By contrast, the market for small cars, such as the Rover Metro, is down by only 8.5 per cent and compacts, like the Ford Escort, by 6.4 per cent — both areas in which Peugeot and Citroën are strongest.

Peugeot, for example, has its new "baby" 106, which looks head and shoulders above the competition, except for another French model, the Renault Clio, which remains best in class. The 205, even after ten years on the market, refuses to look dated and still performs with the best.

Citroën, meanwhile, has relaunched its AX series, which is joined by the ZX, now one of the classiest compacts on the market.

Clever marketing has also played its part; take the ZX Volcane automatic, for example. This is Citroën's answer to the Escort XR3i, but an automatic? The convention is that nobody who buys a GTi-style car wants a fuddy-duddy automatic gear change. Citroën simply asks: Why not?

Why not, indeed, because the Volcane is as lively as any car in its class yet perfect for crowded cities, where the driver, with no need for repetitious gear-changing, can relax. Even with more than 120bhp available to surge safely through overtaking, the Volcane is happy to bubble along in traffic.

Then there is the diesel factor. Diesel sales, which now take up to ten per cent of the market, have played right into the heart of PSA territory.

Catering to a home market where diesel has accounted for a third and more of sales for years has made PSA the leaders in the field. Apart from making engines for Peugeots and Citroëns, PSA also supplies Rover, for example.

The diesel boom has rejuvenated Peugeot's 405 range, accounting for about half of all sales. As a result, the 405 was lifted to sixth place in the list of top ten best sellers in March.

Despite the gloom in the British industry, Ryton is relatively buoyant. Exports of the 405 are strong, accounting for almost 70 per cent of output, and the factory is preparing to make a successor to the ageing 309 range, giving PSA another strong candidate for sales in the small car sector.

That is a far cry from the tortured 1970s, when Ryton, struggling against strikes, falling production and losses of £286 million, was owned by Chrysler. The Americans were reputedly so desperate to offload Ryton that they sold the business to PSA for a single dollar. Now with a new model on the stocks at Ryton, PSA could consolidate its position as Britain's third force at the expense of Rover, giving the Japanese a tough act to beat.

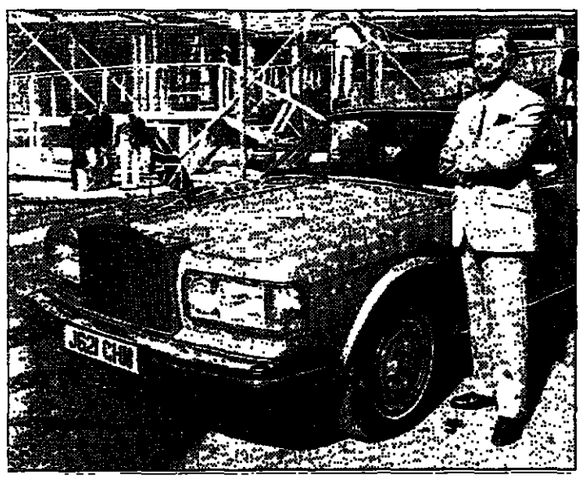
● *Citroën ZX Volcane automatic: price £13,096; engine 1.9-litre, fuel-injected four-cylinder offering 122bhp through a three-way catalytic converter and four-speed automatic gearbox; 0 to 60mph, 10.5 seconds, top speed 124mph, fuel consumption 25.5 mpg around town.*

JOHN MANNING

Citroën's answer to the Escort XR3i: the ZX Volcane is a lively and comfortable automatic

Rolling to Seville in a Silver Spur

How the symbol of prestige, luxury and power was delivered to Expo '92



Flag-bearer: Sir John Ure and the £112,000 limousine

THE decision was enough to send a shudder through the flagpoles that keep the Union Jack proudly aloft in dozens of foreign lands, *Kevin Eason writes*. From now on, it was decreed, British ambassadors would no longer use the Rolls-Royce but some lesser mode of transport, a Jaguar perhaps.

The instruction from the men from the ministry acknowledged that times are hard indeed. Even if a Rolls signified all that was British in the most far-flung outpost, a £100,000-plus motor car was difficult to justify.

Imagine, then, the smile on the face of Sir John Ure, the UK Commissioner General at Expo '92 in Seville, Spain. He has a Rolls-Royce, which I delivered to him this week.

The manufacturer may be in dire straits, with financial losses of £60 million, redundancies and sales down by a third, but this is a company that knows its place as the flagship of Britain's car industry. If Britain were to be represented with a £22 million pavilion at an international exposition, Rolls-Royce had to be there, too.

Sir John might have been transported everywhere in a humble Rover. Nothing wrong with that, but it is hardly the car for the occasion.

The Silver Spur II was born to the job, as I discovered negotiating the narrow streets of Seville on my way to find Sir John. Heads turned everywhere and within 15 minutes the graceful car was becoming the most photographed in Spain.

I had volunteered to do my small bit for Britain by driving the car the 600 miles from Santander to Seville in a day. That sounds a tough proposition, but not at the wheel of a whispering, 6.8-litre giant. The trick is to snuggle back into the leather armchair of a driver's seat, flick the electronic automatic gearbox to drive, then simply point the car south.

Blizzards and rain failed to deflect the car from surging its way over mountain roads, sweeping through Madrid and on to Seville.

The only blip came from my heart as I saw the petrol guage needle falling, with only 20 miles of Spanish countryside going past to every unleaded gallon.

The compensation was the overwhelming pleasure given to Spanish garage owners who, more used to dealing with tiny Seats and battered Fords, thought their birthdays had arrived as the Rolls pulled onto the forecourt. One £50 fill-up was as good as the next five cars in line.

The smile was about as broad on Sir John's face at first sight of the silver Rolls, all £112,000 worth, which is his for the next six months to prove that Britain still provides the world with an exceptional car made by people who care about the tiny details. Then it is back to his Rover.

ROADWISE

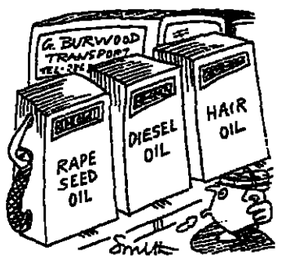
Gas test saves cash

MOTORISTS worried that the new emission tests will cost them money for servicing are wrong, according to Fleet Management Services, the Midlands fleet specialists. The tests will actually increase the residual values of vehicles that have passed the emissions test, and cars with well-tuned engines will have fuel savings worth about £90 annually, says Derick Perkins, Fleet Management Services' director.

Luton double

VAUXHALL, whose Cavalier is now Britain's best-selling car, celebrated two milestones this week at its main plant at Luton, Bedfordshire. Vauxhall has made 500,000 of the current model, and 100,000 of the cars, badged the Opel Vectra, were for export. Exports now account for four out of every ten cars from Luton and the destinations include Belgium, France, Germany and New Zealand, contributing £570 million to the balance of payments last year.

Flower power



BUS drivers refuelling in Copenhagen will soon be pumping rape seed oil instead of diesel into their vehicles. Five buses using the oil will start work in a joint experiment by farmers' unions, the city bus company and the Danish technological institute to cut carbon dioxide emissions. The farmers produce 300 million litres of rape seed oil annually and the buses need no modification for the fuel from the yellow-flowered plant.

Going up

FIAT car prices rise by an average 1.9 per cent this week, and the Honda range by 2.7 per cent. Fiat cars start with the £4,509 Panda 750L. The cheapest Honda is the Civic three-door DX at £8,995 the most expensive the NSX automatic at £58,500.

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House of Lords — **Law Report** April 10 1992 — Court of Appeal

Hearsay from drug buyers inadmissible

Regina v Kearley

Before Lord Griffiths, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Ackner, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Browne-Wilkinson

[Speeches April 8]

Evidence of telephone calls and calls in person to the appellant's house asking for drugs had been irrelevant or inadmissible as hearsay.

The House of Lords, Lord Griffiths and Lord Browne-Wilkinson dissenting, so stated in allowed an appeal by Alan Robert Michael Kearley from the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Jowitt) ((1990) 93 Cr App R 222), who on November 29, 1990, had dismissed his appeal against conviction at Bournemouth Crown Court (Judge Best and a jury) on counts of possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply, contrary to section 5(3) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (count 6), and possession of a controlled drug, contrary to section 5(2) (counts 7 and 8).

Mr Michael de Navarro, QC and Mr John Aspinall for the appellant; Miss Ann Goddard, QC and Mr Roger Shawcross for the Crown.

LORD ACKNER said that the appeal was concerned essentially with count 6, which had concerned a relatively small quantity of amphetamine not such as to give rise in itself to the inference that the appellant was a commercial supplier.

The appellant had given no evidence at his trial but in interviews with the police had consistently denied having anything to do with the supply of drugs. His case at trial had been that such drugs as had been found at his home had not been there with his knowledge.

The issue on count 6 relevant to the appeal had been whether, assuming that he had been in possession of the amphetamine, he had been in possession of it with intent to supply it to others.

The evidence sought to be given, and to which unsuccessful objection had been made at the trial, had been, in the terms of the question certified by the Court of Appeal as raising a point of law of general public importance, an oral request for drugs to be supplied by the appellant, which request had been (i) not spoken in the presence of the appellant; (ii) or in his appellant's hearing; (ii) or by a person called as a witness.

The certified question enquired whether such evidence might be given, not for the purpose of establishing the truth of any fact narrated by the words of the request but for the purpose of inviting the jury to draw an inference from the fact that the words had been spoken that the appellant was a supplier of drugs.

The circumstances in which the request for drugs to which the certified question related had arisen had been that, following the appellant's arrest and when he had been either not at his home or not within earshot, a number of telephone calls had been made to his home that had been answered by the police in which the caller had enquired whether he could speak to "Chippie", the appellant's nickname, and asked to be supplied with drugs.

Later, while the police had still been on the premises, a number of persons had arrived at the house, some with money, also asking to be supplied with drugs.

It was those requests that certain police officers had been allowed to recount in evidence. None of those who had made the enquiries was called by the prosecution.

Each of those requests had, of course, been evidence of the state of mind of the person making the request. He had wished to be supplied with drugs and had thought that the appellant would so supply him. It had not been evidence of the fact that the appellant had supplied or could or would supply the person making the request.

But the state of mind of the person making the request had not been an issue at the trial. Accordingly, evidence of his request had been irrelevant and therefore inadmissible.

Miss Goddard had maintained that the evidence of the requests for drugs to be supplied by the appellant had tended to show that the premises at which the request had been made were being used as a source of supply of drugs and that the supplier, that is, that the person who had been supplying the drugs, was the appellant.

She had accepted that a single request would not have provided evidence either that the premises were being used as a source of supply of drugs or that the appellant was the supplier. It could only have been evidence of the state of mind of the person making the request.

His Lordship could see no basis in logic or principle for validly contending that an additional request or requests would fundamentally have altered the situation.

The request or requests had contained neither an express nor an implied assertion that the person making the enquiry had obtained drugs either from the premises or from the appellant in the past or had been told by the appellant, or his duly authorised agent, that he, the appellant, would satisfy his requirements for drugs if he phoned or called at the premises.

Indeed, the request or requests had not contained any factual assertion. They had asked a question of the appellant: "Will you supply me with drugs?" thus by inference suggesting that they believed that he would supply what they requested.

The application of the hearsay rule did not, on the facts so far recited, fall for consideration. The evidence had not been admissible because it had been irrelevant. It was as simple as that.

But, in case his Lordship had been guilty of over-simplification, he considered the position on the assumption that the very nature of the request or requests had carried with it a permissible implication that the appellant was a supplier of drugs.

Because the precise scope of the rule against hearsay was in some respects a matter of controversy, there were a number of formulations of it.

Cross on Evidence (7th edition (1990) p42) stated: "An assertion other than one made by a person while giving oral evidence in the proceedings is inadmissible as evidence of any fact asserted."

In deciding whether the rule was being breached, it was essential to examine the purpose for which the evidence was tendered.

In *Subramanian v Public Prosecutor* ([1956] 1 WLR 965, 970) the Privy Council had said: "Evidence of a statement made to a witness by a person who is not himself called as a witness may or may not be hearsay. It is hearsay and inadmissible when the object of the evidence is to establish the truth of what is contained in the statement. It is not hearsay and is admissible when it is proposed to establish by the evidence, not the truth of the statement but the fact that it was made."

Such being the law, Miss Goddard had frankly conceded that, if the enquirer had said in the course of making his request: "I would like my usual supply of amphetamine at the price which I paid you last week", or words to that effect, then, although the enquirer could have been called to give evidence of the fact that he had in the past purchased from the appellant his requirements of amphetamine and had made his call at the appellant's house for a further supply on the occasion when he had met and spoken to the police, the hearsay rule would have prevented the prosecution from calling police officers to recount the conversation that his Lordship had described.

That was for the simple reason that the request made in such form contained an express assertion that the premises at which the request was being made were being used as a source of supply of drugs and that the supplier was the appellant.

If the simple request or requests for drugs to be supplied by the appellant, as recounted by the police, had contained in substance, but only by implication, the same assertion, then his Lordship could find neither authority nor principle to suggest that the hearsay rule should not be equally applicable and exclude such evidence.

What was sought to be done was to use the oral assertion, even though it might be an implied assertion, as evidence of the truth of the proposition asserted. That the proposition was asserted by way of necessary implication rather than expressly could not, to his Lordship's mind, make any difference.

The object of tendering the evidence would be to establish the truth of what was contained in the statement. That was precisely what the rule prohibited.

LORD BRIDGE, agreeing with Lord Ackner and Lord Oliver, said that he knew of no principle that could be applied to render evidence of many requests admissible if the evidence of each one, considered separately, would not be.

Of course, he appreciated the probative force of a plurality of requests, but the probative force of hearsay evidence in particular circumstances had never afforded a ground for disregarding the hearsay rule.

LORD OLIVER, agreeing the appeal should be allowed, added that he was very conscious of the difficulty of obtaining direct evidence from witnesses in the prosecution of drug offences and that there might well be a good case for relaxing the rule that excluded hearsay either generally or in cases such as the present so long as the jury received an appropriate direction as to the circumspection with which hearsay evidence should be received.

But the rule had been evolved and applied over many years in the interest of fairness to persons accused of crime, and if it was now to be modified, that should be done only by the legislature.

LORD GRIFFITHS, dissenting, said that it was hardly surprising that the jury had convicted the appellant for as a matter of common sense it was difficult to think of much more convincing evidence of his activity as a drug dealer than customers constantly ringing his home to buy drugs and a stream of customers beating a path to his door for the same purpose.

Unless compelled to do so by authority, his Lordship would be most unwilling to hold that such evidence should be withheld from the jury.

The criminal law of evidence should be developed along common sense lines readily comprehensible to the men and women who comprised the jury and bore the responsibility for the major decisions in criminal cases.

His Lordship believed that most laymen, if told that the criminal law of evidence forbade them even to consider such evidence as their Lordships were debating, would reply "Then the law is an ass".

The hearsay rule had been created by their Lordships' judicial predecessors and if their Lordships found that it no longer served to do justice in certain conditions then the judges of today should accept the responsibility of reviewing and adapting the rules of evidence to serve present society.

It was said that evidence of what had been said by those who had telephoned or called at the appellant's home asking to be supplied with drugs had been evidence of no more than their belief or opinion that they could obtain drugs from the appellant and, on the authority of *Wright v Doe d Tatham* ((1837) 7 A & E 313), to be treated as inadmissible hearsay.

His Lordship could not accept that submission. It was of course true that it was almost certain that the customers had believed that they could obtain drugs from the appellant. But why had they?

The obvious inference was that the appellant had established a market as a drug dealer by supplying or offering to supply drugs and had thus been attracting customers.

There were, of course, other possible explanations such as a mistaken belief or even a deliberate attempt to frame the appellant, but there were very few factual situations from which different inferences could not be drawn and it was for the jury to decide which inference they believed they could safely draw.

The evidence had been offered not for the purpose of inviting the jury to draw the inference that the customers had believed that they could obtain drugs but to prove as a fact that the telephone callers and visitors had been acting as customers or potential customers.

That had been a circumstance from which the jury could, if so minded, have drawn the inference that the appellant was trading as a drug dealer.

The requests for drugs had not been hearsay as generally understood, namely an out-of-court narrative description of facts that had had to be proved in evidence. The callers had been neither describing the appellant as a drug dealer nor stating their opinion that he was a drug dealer. They had been calling him up or visiting him as customers, a fact revealed by the words they had used in requesting drugs from him.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson delivered an opinion concurring with Lord Griffiths.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard; CPS, Headquarters.

Licensees liable for unlawful eviction

Jones and Another v Miah and Another

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Leggatt

[Judgment April 7]

The definition of "licensee" in the *National Conditions of Sale for a* purchaser let into occupation before completion did not detract from the definition of "landlord" in section 27(9)(c) of the Housing Act 1988.

The fact that as between the purchaser and the vendor the former was to be regarded as a licensee, rather than a tenant, did *not prevent the purchaser from* being "in occupation" for the purposes of section 27(9)(c) of the 1988 Act.

The Court of Appeal so held in a *reserved judgment in allowing* in part an appeal by the defendant brothers, Mr M. N. Miah and Mr G. M. Miah, against the decision of Judge Quentin Edwards, QC, on April 9, 1990 at Bloomsbury County Court when he awarded damages totalling £17,135 to the plaintiffs, Miss Jennifer Jones and Miss Helen Lee for the tort of unlawful eviction under sections 27 and 28 of the 1988 Act, for loss and inconvenience, personal discomfort and distress and aggravated damages. The Court of Appeal reduced the damages to £11,000.

Section 27 of the Housing Act 1988 provides: "(9) ... (c) 'landlord' in relation to a residential occupier, means the person who, but for the occupier's right to occupy, would be entitled to occupation of the premises, and any superior landlord under whom that person derives title."

Mr Raymond Croxon, QC and Mr Robert Blackford for the defendants; Mr David Neuberger, QC and Mr Shane Dougall for Miss Lee; Miss Jones did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that both actions arose out of *events on* October 18, 1988, when both plaintiffs were brutally evicted by the defendants in very distressing circumstances with the concurrence of a Mr Sammy Ahmed, from bed-sitting rooms on the first floor of 23A Camden High Street, London of which they had protected tenancies under section 22 of the Rent Act 1977.

The defendants argued, *inter alia*, that they were not in law the landlords of the plaintiffs at the time of the unlawful eviction and so could not have been liable for damages under sections 27 and 28 of the 1988 Act as landlords in default.

At the time of the wrongful eviction of the plaintiffs, Mr Ahmed and Mr Uddin held a leasehold interest in 23/23A Camden High Street. By a contract in writing dated October 5, Mr Ahmed and Mr Uddin agreed to sell to the defendants the business of a restaraunt carried on by the vendors at No 23 together with the bed-sitting rooms on the first floor.

The contract incorporated the National Conditions of Sale (20th edition) which included condition 8: "If the purchaser ... is let into occupation of the property before the actual completion ... the purchaser shall — (i) be the licensee and not the tenant of the vendor".

Because of the protected tenancies, the vendors were not in a position on October 17 to give vacant possession of the bed-sitting rooms. But on October 18 the plaintiffs were evicted by the defendants and completion took place.

Before October 18, the defendants had been supplied with keys of the upper part of the property and had threatened the plaintiffs with eviction and that they would "play it rough".

With the concurrence of Mr Ahmed, the defendants changed the lock on No 23A so as to prevent the plaintiffs returning to the premises and packed up their belongings in black plastic bags.

The defendants said that the plaintiffs' claim for damages under sections 27 and 28 of the 1988 Act should have been made against Mr Ahmed, who was landlord at the time of the evictions. They said that at that time they were at highest licensees of the vendors under condition 8 of the National Conditions of Sale and that it was well established that a licensee had a mere personal contractual right against his licensor but no interest in land.

The defendants therefore submitted that they could not at the time of the eviction have been entitled to occupation of the premises as against the plaintiffs or anyone else, within the meaning of "landlord" in section 27(9)(c) of the 1988 Act.

In his Lordship's judgment, the definition of "landlord" to be applied was the definition in section 27(9)(c) and not any other definition. That definition had to be read in relation to a landlord and tenant relationship but there was no difficulty in doing that.

The defendants became the owners in equity of the leasehold term when they entered into their contract to purchase it. Condition 8 envisaged that a purchaser might be let into occupation of the property before completion. The fact that as between himself and the vendor he was to be regarded as a licensee whose licence was revocable on notice, rather than as a tenant, did not prevent his being in occupation.

His Lordship could see no reason why the defendants, who were let into occupation by the vendors before completion, did not satisfy the test in the definition of being the persons who, but for the residential occupier's right to occupation, would have been entitled to occupation of the premises.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Leggatt delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Lipman Bose & Co; Osbornes, Camden Town.

Drinking after accident

DPP v Lowden

Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Waterhouse

[Judgment April 2]

Once justices had been given clear evidence from an expert as to the amount of alcohol necessary to cause a particular driver to exceed the legal limit and had been given plausible evidence as to the quantity of alcohol consumed after the occurrence of an accident, it was then open to them, in spite of the fact that apparent discrepancies remained unexplained, to find that the defendant had discharged the burden of proof necessary to establish a defence under section 15(3) of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing a prosecution appeal against the dismissal by Taunton Justices of a charge against Anthony Gibbon Lowden of driving with excess alcohol, contrary to section 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Mr Simon Morgan for the prosecution; Mr John Ungley for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE WATERHOUSE said that while travelling along the M5 a wheel of the defendant motorist's car had come off. No one else had been involved in the accident.

On returning home the defendant had consumed alcohol and, on being questioned by police as to the amount, had indicated it by reference to a glass tumbler. The tumbler in question and expert witnesses for both sides were present at the hearing.

In *DPP v Singh* ([1988] RTR 209) where there had been a similar set of circumstances, the justices had had no guidance from experts from which they could draw the conclusions that the defendant had discharged the burden required under section 15(3).

The justices' description of the difference between the amount necessary to form the basis of a charge and that described by the defendant to the police as having been consumed as being minimal had troubled his Lordship but the justices' decision that the defendant had discharged the burden was none the less open to them on the evidence with the adequate expert assistance that they had received.

Lord Justice Lloyd delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Blyth Dunton for CPS Taunton; Dodson Harding, Taunton.

Human Rights Law Report — Strasbourg

Deportation would violate human rights

Beldjoudi v France

(Case No 55/1990/246/317)

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges F. Matscher, L.-E. Pettiti, C. Russo, A. Spielmann, J. de Meyer, N. Valticos, S. K. Martens and R. Pekkanen

Registrar M.-A. Eissen

[Judgment March 26]

The European Court of Human Rights held, by 7 votes to 2, that if a decision to deport Mr Beldjoudi from France were implemented, there would be a violation of the applicants' right to respect for their family life as guaranteed by article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Article 8 of the Convention provides:

"1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.

"2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

Mr Mohand Beldjoudi, the first applicant, was born in France in 1950, of parents of Algerian origin who, like him, lost their French nationality in 1963 after Algeria became independent. He was brought up in France and had always lived there, either with his parents or with the second applicant, Mrs Martine Beldjoudi nee Teychene, a French citizen whom he married in 1970. His parents and his five brothers and sisters were all resident in France.

He was convicted in 1969, 1974, 1977 and 1978 of various criminal offences, including an aggravated theft for which he was sentenced to eight years imprisonment.

In November 1979, the Minister of the Interior issued a deportation order against him, on the ground that his presence on French territory constituted a threat to public order.

His application for the order to be set aside was dismissed by the Versailles Administrative Court in April 1988. Mr Beldjoudi had in the meantime been convicted of several other offences in 1986 and had unsuccessfully attempted to obtain a certificate of French nationality in 1983 and 1984.

On January 18, 1991 the Conseil d'Etat dismissed his appeal against the administrative court's decision and the deportation order. The order had not yet been enforced and Mr Beldjoudi was subject to a compulsory residence order for the Hauts-de-Seine Department. He was also under judicial supervision after being charged with aggravated receiving of stolen goods.

In its judgment, the European *Court of Human Rights held:*

I Alleged violation of article 8

A Paragraph 1

The Court found that enforcement of the deportation order would constitute an interference by a public authority with the exercise of the applicants' right to respect for their family life.

B Paragraph 2 of article 8

1 In accordance with the law

It was not disputed that the legal basis of the interference was section 23 of the order of November 2, 1945 relating to the conditions of entry and residence of aliens in France. It was also found to be lawful by the Conseil d'Etat in its judgment of January 18, 1991.

2 Legitimate aim

The Government and the Commission considered that the interference in issue was directed at aims which were entirely in accordance with the Convention, the prevention of disorder and the prevention of crime. The applicants did not dispute that and the Court reached the same conclusion.

3 Necessary in a democratic society

The Court acknowledged that it was the duty of the contracting states to maintain public order, in particular by exercising their right, as a matter of well established international law and subject to their treaty obligations, to control the entry, residence and expulsion of aliens (see *Abdulaziz, Cabales and Balkandali v United Kingdom* of May 28, 1985 (Series A No 94, p34, paragraph 67), *Berrehab v The Netherlands* (*The Times* June 30, 1988; Series A No 138, pp15-16, paragraphs 28-29) and *Moustaquim v Belgium* (*The Times* May 8, 1991; Series A No 193, p19, paragraph 43).

However, their decisions in that field had, in so far as they might interfere with a right protected under paragraph 1 of article 8, to be necessary in a democratic society, that is to say, justified by a pressing social need and, in particular, proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.

In the present case, Mr Beldjoudi's criminal record appeared much worse than that of Mr Moustaquim.

The Court therefore examined whether the other circumstances of the case, relating either to both applicants or to one of them only, were enough to compensate for that important fact.

Having regard to the applicants' ages and the fact that they had no children, the interference in question primarily affected their family life as spouses. They had been married in France over twenty years previously and had always had their matrimonial home there.

Mr Beldjoudi's periods of imprisonment had not put an end to their family life, which remained protected by article 8. Mr Beldjoudi, the person immediately affected by the deportation order, had been born in France of parents who were then french and had had French nationality until January 1, 1963. He had taken steps, one year after his first conviction and nine years before the adoption of the deportation order, to recover French nationality.

He had married a Frenchwoman and his close relatives had all had French nationality for some time and had been resident *in France for several decades.*

He had spent his whole life, over forty years, in France, had been educated in French and appeared not to know Arabic. He appeared not to have any *links* with Algeria apart from nationality.

Mrs Beldjoudi had been born in France of French parents, had always lived there and was of French nationality. If she were to follow her husband, she would have to settle abroad, presumably in Algeria, a state whose language she probably did not know. To be uprooted like that could cause her great difficulty in adapting and there might be real practical or legal obstacles.

The Court therefore held, Judges Pettiti and Valticos dissenting, that having regard to these various circumstances, it appeared, from the point of view of respect for the applicants' family life, that the decision to deport Mr Beldjoudi, if put into effect, would not be proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued and would therefore violate article 8.

Having reached that conclusion, the Court did not need to examine whether the deportation would also infringe the applicants' right to respect for their private life.

II Alleged violation of article 14 in conjunction with article 8

In view of the finding of a violation of article 8, the Court did not consider it necessary to examine in addition the allegation of discrimination contrary to article 14 in the enjoyment of the applicants' right to respect for their family life.

III Alleged violation of articles 3, 9 and 12

As to the complaints relating to articles 3, 9 and 12 were not *reiterated before the Court, the* Court did not consider it necessary, Judge de Meyer dissenting over the alleged violation of article 3, to examine them on its own motion.

IV Application of article 50

A Damage

the applicants claimed Ffr10,000,000 in respect of damage. The Court agreed that they must have suffered non-pecuniary damage, but considered that the judgment provided them with sufficient compensation.

B Costs and expenses

The Court considered it reasonable to awared Ffr60,000 for costs and expenses incurred during the proceedings before the Convention institutions.

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The half-yearly interest on the common stock will be paid on June 1 to holders of record on May 1.

D R Keasl
Deputy Secretary
62-65 Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 5DY
April 12 1992

LEGAL NOTICES

NO 001342 OF 1992
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF ROSS GROUP PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 16th March 1992 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £46,000,000 to £12,800,000 and the cancellation of its share premium account was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 7th April 1992.

Dated this 8th day of April 1992.

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LEGAL NOTICES

1 KEYTREAT COMPANY NO 1936946
2 PHILLIPS & DREW INTERNATIONAL TRADING LIMITED COMPANY NO 1960912
3 PHILLIPS & DREW TRADING COMPANY NO 1960660
NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ABOVE COMPANIES

The above companies are wholly owned subsidiaries of Union Bank of Switzerland and have become dormant following the transfer of their activities and assets to the holding company. The above named companies were put into solvent liquidation by the members of the company on 31 March 1992. As such creditors with valid claims either have been, or will be, paid in full.

Notices that follow below are merely formal to the creditors notice to the liquidator's appointment and the final creditors should take no further action. Any claim they may have against the above company.

On 31 March 1992 the companies were placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Richard Victor Trabuch section of Price Waterhouse 161 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL was appointed liquidator by the members.

The liquidator gives notice that the creditors of the above companies must send details, in writing of their claims against the companies to the liquidator, at the above address by 8 May 1992 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.

All known creditors have been or will be paid in full.

9 April 1992
Richard Victor Trabuch Section
Liquidator

CARESHILLD INTERNATIONAL PLC
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at of Grays Inn Road London WC1 on the 29 April at 11 30am for the purpose mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Proxies to be used at the Meeting must be lodged at the offices of Haines Watts Insolvency Services, 51 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8PP the registered office of the company not later than 12 00 noon on the 28 April 1992.

A list of the names and addresses of the creditors of the company will be available for inspection by creditors at 51 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8PP between the hours of 10 00 a.m. and 4 00 p.m. on 27 April 1992.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that, for the purpose of voting, secured creditors must unless they surrender their security lodge at the said Registered Office of the company before the meeting, a statement setting particulars of their security, the date when it was given, and the value of which it was assessed.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
P.N. CARTER

Notice of appointment of Sole Liquidator and Notice to Creditors to Claim
Ginberty Limited
(In Administrative Receivership and Liquidation)
Principal Trading Address: The Oasis Publicity Centre, Perry Wood, London Road, Faversham, Kent
Company Number 1323529

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that on 18 March 1992 N R Lyle was appointed liquidator of the above named company's creditors voluntary winding up.

Creditors of the company who have not already done so should submit their claims in writing to the liquidator at the following address under reference FRL/PJD/RJC:
Touche Ross & Co., P O Box 810, Friary Court 65 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2NP

Notice of appointment of Sole Liquidator and Notice to Creditors to Claim
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(In Administrative Receivership and Liquidation)
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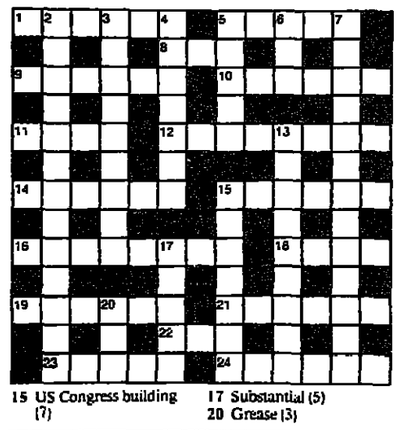
CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2762



ACROSS
1 Hooked (6)
5 *Fierce man (5)*
8 Anger (3)
9 Light refreshments (6)
10 Write down music (6)
11 Scheme (4)
12 Unplanned (2,6)
14 Cringeing (6)
15 Root crop mounds (6)
16 Seize (6,2)
18 Trial (4)
19 *Excuse (3,3)*
21 Of clan, group (6)
22 As well (3)
23 Score (5)
24 Small working vessel (6)

DOWN
2 Clayhanger author (6,7)
3 With agreement (2,7)
4 Far off (7)
5 Alto/baritone voice (5)
6 Eviscerate (3)
7 Youth/manhood ceremony (4,2,7)
13 Narrow escape (4,5)
15 US Congress building (7)
17 Substantial (5)
20 Grease (3)

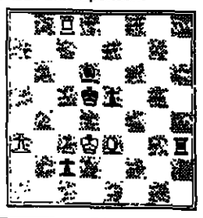
SOLUTIONS TO NO 2761
ACROSS: 1 Hemp 3 Scared 8 Dardanelles 10 Sou 11 Ninny 12 Terrine 14 Axe 15 Hod 16 Odyssey 17 Comic 19 Dog 22 Coup de grace 23 Always 24 Mini
DOWN: 1 Hirsute 2 Meal 4 Coldness 5 Resin 6 Dry-eyed 7 Odds 9 Easily led 13 Reoccupy 14 Arcadia 15 Hydrant 18 Macaw 20 Grew 21 Ugli

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Steiner – Alekhine, Budapest 1921. In this endgame, black is a pawn up and has a useful pin against the white bishop. How did he make the most of these?

Solution below.



Solution: 1 ...Bc7! 2 Rxc2 (or 2 Kd2 Rxa3! 3 Kxa3 c1=Q and 4 ... Bg5+) 2 ...Bg5 3 Re2 e4+ 4 Kf2 Rxe2 5 Rxe3 Kd4 winning.

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BBC1

6.00 BBC Breakfast News. Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer with the latest news and reaction to the result of the general election. Including comprehensive coverage from the BBC's political correspondents and reporters and interviews with senior figures in the three main parties (8156316)

9.30 Election '92. *David Dimbleby with the* results of the morning declarations; Peter Snow examines how and why the country voted the way it did; Peter Sissons inteviews the politicians; and John Cole gives his reaction to the outcome. Includes **News**, regional news and weather at **10.00, 11.00** and **12.00** (190381)

12.30 Regional News and weather (11213)

1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (53316)

1.30 Election '92. David Dimbleby and the team follow the closing stages of the election including the final results which could be of crucial importance. The cameras will also be in Downing Street to see the winning party's celebrations, at Buckingham Palace to record the comings and goings and at the parties' headquarters as the final outcome is discussed (513403)

4.00 Wildlife On One: Rockies and Rollers. *The animal life of the* Falklands, narrated by David Attenborough (r) (584)

4.30 Goodbye to the Good Old Days. An affectionate appreciation of the television variety show which finished in 1983 after a run of 30 years (r) (768)

5.00 A Question of Sport introduced by David Coleman. Bill Beaumont and John Parrott are joined by Ray Houghton, Dalton Grant, Alex Greaves and David Feherty *(r). (Ceefax) (s) (1182958)*

5.35 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (530958)

6.00 Six O'Clock News and Election '92 with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (92132)

7.00 Regional News Magazines (445213)

7.35 Harry and the Hendersons. Raucous American comedy about a family who befriend a monster after accidentally injuring it on a camping holiday. (Ceefax) (s) (754942)

Entertaining company: Cash, Forsyth and Richard (8.00pm)

8.00 Bruce's Guest Night. The first of a new series of entertainment shows hosted by the indestructible Bruce Forsyth. His guests are Cliff Richard, American comedienne Rita Rudner, singer Lisa Stansfield, former Wimbledon men's singles champion Pat Cash and Broadway and *Dallas* star Howard Keel. *(Ceefax) (s) (8861)*

9.00 Nine O'Clock News and Election '92 with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (927749)

9.50 Film: A Cop for the Killing (1990) starring James Farrentino. Efficient, fact-based TV movie about the Los Angeles police's undercover narcotic squad who suffer a crisis of confidence after one of their number is killed in the line of duty while on the track of *the city's biggest cocaine dealer. Directed by Dick Lowry. (Ceefax)* (8964855). Northern Ireland: Sportscene 10.20-10.55 Film: The Mighty Quinn

11.20 Film: About Last Night (1986) starring Rob Lowe, James Belushi and Demi Moore. An acerbic comedy based on David Mamet's play *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* about the city's singles scene in which a couple's one night stand becomes a more permanent but ultimately doomed relationship. Directed by Edward Zwick (393045). Northern Ireland (11.55-1.25): Film: The Wicker Man

1.10am Weather (4839411)

BBC2

6.45 Open University: Arts — Handel's *Messiah* (7181519). Ends at **7.10. 8.00 Breakfast News** (6962213)

8.15 Party Time. The fun of a party (r). (Ceefax) (3838381)

9.00 Film: Dot and the Smugglers (1987). Animated adventure about a little girl in the Australian outback who stops a heartless band of smugglers from stealing the legendary Bunyip (1268316)

9.55 The Angel and the Soldier Boy. More animation, with music from Clannad (r) (9415497) **10.20 Playdays**. For the very young (s) (7550584) **10.40 The Family Ness** (r) (3639942)

10.45 Film: Son of Monte Cristo (1940, b/w) starring Louis Hayward, Joan Bennett and George Sanders. Passable minor swashbuckler directed by Rowland V. Lee (60708294)

12.30 The Invisible World. A National Geographic film capturing worlds that cannot be perceived by the human eye (r) (7986316)

1.20 Brum (r) (24634774) **1.30 The Adventures of Spot** (r) (21671478) **1.35 In the Post**. A look at some of the world's greatest stamp collections (r) (22944251)

2.00 News and weather (30035584) followed by **Weekend Outlook**. *Open University programmes preview (30034855)* ***2.10 Made by* Hand**. The skills of the ornamental metalworker (r) (23778229)

2.25 Racing from Newbury. Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races (233132)

4.00 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse (r) (9489126) **4.10 New Lassie** (r) (2825519) **4.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles**. (Ceefax) (8131861)

***4.50 Newsround** (3085478) **5.00 Gentle Ben**. A baby elephant is ill-*treated by its cruel owner (r). (Ceefax) (5497)

5.30 Top Gear (r) (590) **6.00 Thunderbirds**. (Ceefax) (323687)

6.50 Dr Who. The final episode if the sci-fi adventure *The Sea Devils*, starring Jon Pertwee (r). (Ceefax) (712671)

7.15 100 Per Cent. Last in the teenage magazine series includes an investigation into child sexual abuse (s) (164836)

8.00 Nature: Close Encounters of the European Kind.

● CHOICE: Continuing his trenchant series on green issues and the European Community, Julian Pettifer submits his country cottage to a check for energy efficiency. It is leaking heat like a sieve. So, to a greater or lesser extent, are many other homes in Britain. Despite government pleas, few of us have done much to tackle energy loss. It is not just a matter of lower fuel bills. A study in Newcastle upon Tyne suggests that most carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas that leads to global warming, comes not from factories or cars but the home. The British record is contrasted with that of Denmark, where legislation has compelled householders to be more energy conscious. The Danish measures have been incorporated in an EC initiative called Save, which includes energy labelling for homes and household appliances. (Ceefax) (4381)

8.30 Gardeners' World. Geoff Hamilton visits a garden in Tenbury Wells *boasting unusual floral colour combinations (6316)*

9.00 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV. More comedy sketches, songs and monolgues from Miss Wood's 1986 series (r) (4316)

The Andy Warhol of Barcelona: Javier Mariscal (9.30pm)

9.30 Arena: A Spanish Odyssey — a Portrait of Javier Mariscal.

● CHOICE: "What interests me", declares Javier Mariscal, "is making startling images which break fixed rules." Dubbed the Andy Warhol of Barcelona, Mariscal has carried through this precept in comic strips, posters, television animations and eccentric furniture. In Barcelona he helped to design a seafront restaurant modelled on a luxury liner with a giant prawn on the roof. The iconoclast has now *gained respectability as the official designer for the 1992 Olympics.* The accolade shows no sign of cramping his irreverent style. Holly Aylett's film attempts the difficult task of trying to pin down an artistic sensibility that breaks out in all directions and is impossible to categorise. If the result is sometimes arbitrary and shapeless, that is a fair summary of the subject (54841)

10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (710107)

11.25 Weather (324294)

11.30 Golf. The second round of the US Masters from Augusta (972861). Ends at **1.10am**

ITV

6.00 TV-am (8078584)

9.25 Election '92 introduced by Jon Snow. Reporters and camera crews bring live coverage of the remaining declarations and the views of the party leaders; Alastair Stewart has the detailed results; John Suchet keeps in touch with the state of the parties with the aid of *graphic displays; and Julia Somerville, with the help of* ITN's exit poll, explains why the public voted in the way they did (46902836)

3.20 Thames News headlines (6075359)

3.25 The Young Doctors. Drama serial set in a large Australian city hospital (1265039)

3.55 Talespin. Cartoon adventures (s) (5541923) **4.20 Cartoon** featuring Foghorn Leghorn (r) (9569316) **4.30 Spatz**. Children's comedy drama set in a fast-food restaurant (836)

5.00 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) (2923)

5.30 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (316)

6.00 6 O'Clock Live presented by Frank Bough. The guests include Paul Nicholas as he prepares for a special 20th anniversary celebration of the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*. There is also a live report from Paris by Matthew Kelly and Pat Sharp previewing tomorrow's coverage of the official opening of EuroDisney (896949) **6.55 The Day** Twenty-four important hours in the life of an ordinary member of the public (247942)

7.00 The Help Squad. Michael Parkinson and his team of Annabel Giles, Chris Donat and Jan Rowland, come to the rescue of viewers in trouble (5687)

7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (565)

8.00 Surprise, Surprise. Cilla Black springs unexpected emotional moments on viewers and a member of the studio audience. (Oracle) (s) (1359)

Beating a Yorkshire retreat: Cusack and Berry (9.00pm)

9.00 Heartbeat.

● CHOICE: Yet another police series opens with young constable Nick (Nick Berry) moving from the smoke to the North York Moors with his doctor wife (Niahm Cusack) and finding the natives not exactly pleased to see them. We are in 1964, which is the cue for a joke about Christine Keeler and a discreet trawl of the contemporary pop charts. The mood of the series is close to the rough geniality of another Yorkshire drama, *All Creatures Great and Small*. There might be a prowler on the loose, and a motor bike gang threatening to smash up the village dance, but decency and good sense is always likely to prevail. Derek Fowlds shines as Nick's gruff sergeant and Bill Maynard supplies an agreeable comic touch as the neighbourhood eccentric. It seems just the show for those fed up with car chases and designer thuggery. (Oracle) (s) (7565)

***10.00* News at Ten** *with Trevor McDonald and Carol Barnes. (Oracle)* Weather (475497) **10.45 LWT News** and weather (916039)

10.50 The London Programme: Election '92 — the Capital Decides. Trevor Phillips reviews the general election results in London and the South-east (172403)

11.45 Dial Midnight. Phone-in dating service with a resident psychic. Presented by Anastasia Cooke and Samantha Norman (376316)

1.20 The James Whale Radio Show. The acerbic chat show hosts intimidates another collection of phoners-in (s) (6649817)

2.25 American Gladiators. Competitions designed to test strength and ingenuity (3716879)

3.25 CinemAttractions. The latest news from the movie scene in the United States, introduced by Charlie Tuna (67354968)

3.55 Raw Power. Rock music magazine (s) (8896614)

4.45 The American Match. Action from the London Monarchs's first away game of the season — against Barcelona Dragons (515695)

5.45 ITN Morning News with Anne Leuchars (5542459). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL4

6.00 Election '92 (8076126)

9.25 The Munsters (b/w). Vintage comedy about a ghoulish family, starring Fred Gwynne and Butch Patrick (r) (4609652)

9.55 Road to Avonlea. Episode three of the 13-part children's drama serial (r) (5875045) **10.50 Powers of Ten**. Charles and Ray Eames's animated documentary about maths and physics (3717774)

11.00 Kurdistan to Green Lanes. *The story of Ali Yilderum, a Kurd now* living in north-east London (r) (6720)

11.30 Get Smart. Secret agent spoof starring Don Adams (4749)

12.00 Noah's Ark. The fight to save South America's smallest wild camel (r). (Teletext) (78010)

12.30 Business Daily (30233) **1.00 Sesame Street** (r) (80736)

2.00 I Love Lucy (b/w). Vintage comedy starring Lucille Ball with guest Tennessee Ernie Ford (9213)

2.30 Film: Only Yesterday (1933, b/w) starring Margaret Sullavan, in her debut role, and John Boles. Stodgy romantic drama about a woman who becomes pregnant by a man who goes to fight in the first world war. On his return their paths cross again when he is an unsuccessful stockbroker on the verge of suicide. Directed by John *M. Stahl (25010)*

4.30 Fifteen to One. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (478)

5.00 Cutting Edge: Coppers. East London's Hackney police force in action (r) (2300)

6.00 Happy Days. Nostalgic high school comedy. (Teletext) (671)

6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. Guests include Paul Merton (s) (923)

7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Fiona Murch. (Teletext) Weather (226251) ***7.50 First Reaction*** (281671)

8.00 Brookside. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (s) (5749)

Still treading the boards: artiste Carla McDonough (8.30pm)

8.30 Short Stories: Old Pros' Paradise

● *CHOICE: At Brinsworth House, a home for retired variety artists in* Twickenham, they are putting on a Christmas show. The star turn will be Carla McDonough, a peroxide blonde who in her heyday performed fan dances, striptease, the splits and something called all-round acrobatic contortionism. This time she will only sing but it is 12 years since her last public performance and the nerves are taut. McDonough is one of the younger residents of a home where the *average age is 84. Laurie Wiseman's affectionate* film, by turns sad and funny, is a study of growing old in a profession that seems to be a particularly long-lived. No one wants to call it a day but there comes a time when the flesh is no longer willing and there are only memories to fall back on, stirred by yellowing photographs and variety bills from 50 and 60 years ago (8584)

9.00 Cheers. Award-winning comedy series set in the Boston watering hole. (Teletext) (s) (6584)

9.30 Flowering Passions. Anna Pavord meets Peggy Cole, a successful grower of container plants (r). (Teletext) (97687)

10.00 Roseanne. Rose and Dan enter into the spirit of Hallowe'en by trying to frighten their obnoxious neighbour. (Teletext) (s) (36039)

10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Ad-lib comedy (68687)

11.00 The Messiah — Hallelujah Video. Pop promo-style hype by the Hallelujah Chorus for the live performance of the *Messiah* in Dublin on Monday. With the orchestra and chorus of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, conducted by Sir Neville Marriner (448213)

11.05 Hysteria III. Stephen Fry hosts an Aids charity music and comedy show at the London Palladium. Among those appearing are Rowan Atkinson, French and Saunders and Hugh *Laurie (r)* (s) (934836)

1.00 Tonight with Jonathan Ross (r) (s) (36546). Ends at **1.30**

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SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● **Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.**
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (76475045) **8.40** Mrs Pepperpot (3791478) **8.55** Lamb Chops Play-a-Long (5689565) **9.30** The New Leave it to Beaver (37229) **10.00** Maude (82300) **10.30** The Young Doctors (18652) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (19942) **12.00** *Barnaby Jones (47652)* **1.00pm** E Street (93958) **1.30** Another World (8053045) **2.20** Santa Barbara (54799403) **2.45** The Bold and the Beautiful (205294) **3.15** The Brady Bunch (202107) **3.45** The DJ Kat Show (2241774) **5.00** Diff'rent Strokes (5039) **5.30** Bewitched (1132) **6.00** Facts of Life (8045) **6.30** E Street (6497) **7.00** Love at First Sight (1403) **7.30** Parker Lewis Can't Lose (5381) **8.00** Rags to *Riches (97671)* **9.00** *Hunter (84107)* **10.00** WWF Superstars of Wrestling (87294) **11.00** Freddy's Nightmare: Life Sentence. Starring Robert Englund (83356) **1.00am** Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS

● **Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.**
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (4799958) **9.30** The Conferences (55671) **10.00** News, incl Election Phone-In (67300) **11.30** Nightline (60039) **12.00** News (31749) **1.30pm** Good Morning America (60855) **2.30** Good Morning America (83497) **3.30** Travel Destinations (77687) **4.30** Memories (2294) **5.00** Live at Five (29565) **6.30** Newsline (33565) **8.30** Target (68749) ***10.30** Newsline (26039)* **11.30** ABC News (79687) **12.30pm** Newsline (22430) **1.30** ABC News (17817) **2.30** Memories *(84140)* **3.30** ABC News (96985) **4.30** Memories (38898) **5.30** Newsline (18099)

SKY MOVIES+

● **Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.**
***6.00am Showcase** (8851316)*
10.00 The Detective Kid (1989): A teenager turns sleuth (35861)
12.00 Evil Under the Sun (1981). Peter Ustinov stars as Hercule Poirot (60132)
2.00pm A Town's Revenge (1989): A woman returns to her home town (85497)
3.00 I Don't Know Who I Am (1980): An *adopted girl looks for her parents* (51381)
4.00 Three Sailors and a Girl (1953): Musical about a floating variety show (9478)
6.00 The Detective Kid (as 10am) (97482107)
8.00 I Love You To Death (1990): Tracey Ullman plots to murder her husband (87984671) **9.40 US Top Ten** (843861)
10.00 The Exorcist III (1990): George C. Scott *investigates a series of sacrilegous* murders (221749)
11.50 Shocker (1989): A prisoner returns to haunt his executioners (991381)
1.50am Rush Week (1988): Thriller set on a college campus (998492)
3.50 Hellraiser (1987): Horror film (767966). Ends at **5.30**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● **Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.**
6.15am The Lodger (1944, b/w) Victorian thriller (13338768)
8.00 Space Firebird (1985): Inter-galactic cartoon (11373774)
10.15 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (1939, b/w) (172107)
12.15pm Ben Hur (1959): Biblical epic starring Charlton Heston (90191749)
4.00 Space Firebird (as 8am) (57491316)
6.15 Immediate Family (1985): An infertile couple hopes to adopt a baby (339565)
8.15 Funny About Love (1990): Romantic comedy starring Gene Wilder (49469861)
10.05 Sea of Love (1989): Policeman Al Pacino falls for prime murder suspect Ellen Barkin (942720)
12.00 The Cook The Thief His Wife and Her Lover (1989): Peter Greenaway's surreal melodrama (45551898)
2.05am The Long Riders (1980): Western adventure (721343)
3.50 Homer and Eddie (1989): Road movie starring James Belushi and Whoopi Goldberg (765508). Ends at **5.30**

THE COMEDY CHANNEL

● **Via the Astra satellite.**
4.00pm Mr Ed (5132) **4.30** Petticoat Junction (1316) **5.00** The New Leave it to Beaver (5403) **5.30** Greenacres (9768) **6.00** Here's Lucy (9381) **6.30** Small Wonder (6861) **7.00** F Troop (9039) **7.30** McHale's Navy (2045) **8.00** Working It Out (1687) **8.30** Babes (7294) **9.00** Hogan's Heroes (49564) **9.30** Here's Lucy (36671) **10.00** In Living Color (58133) **10.30** McHale's Navy (87861)

SKY SPORTS

● **Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.**
6.30am Aerobics (15652) **7.00** Supercross (57316) **8.00** Indy Cart (96395) **10.00** Australian Rules Football (70045) **12.00** Aerobics (42774) **12.30pm** Boots and All (81316) **1.30** European League Round-Up (82045) **2.30** Nascar Highlights (25497) **3.30** Netbusters (7395) **4.00** Indy Cart (5294) **6.00** Torque (79316) **7.00** Sky Soccer Weekend (17403) **8.00** German League Football (31039) **10.00** Sky Soccer Weekend (16774) **11.00** Australian Rugby League (14720) **1.00am** Supercross (69072)

EUROSPORT

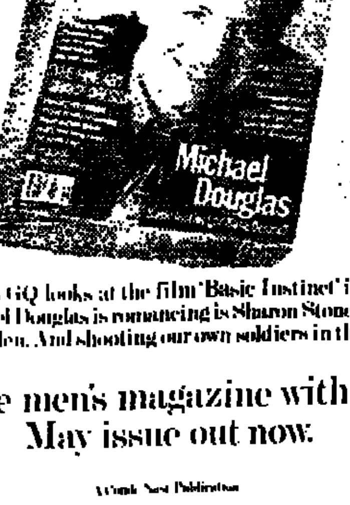
● **Via the Astra satellite.**
8.00am Tennis ATP Tour (653300) **11.00** Speed Skating (51942) **12.00** American Supercross Grand Prix Indianapolis (95300) **1.00pm** Tennis ATP Tour (99229) **2.30** Eurofun Magazine (7768) **3.00** Trans World Sport (80861) **4.00** Speed Skating (62328) **5.00** Tennis ATP Tour (2562854) **8.30** Eurosport News (9010) **9.00** International Boxing (35855) **10.00** Tennis ATP Tour (92316) **11.30** Eurosport News (20584)

SCREENSPORT

● **Via the Astra satellite.**
7.00am Eurobics (32861) **7.30** Augusta Masters 1992 (16300) **9.30** International Show Jumping *(31855)* **10.30** Eurobics (53836) **11.00** NHL Ice Hockey 1991/92 (41213) **1.00pm** Warsteiner Ski Magazine (31132) **1.30** US Men's Pro Ski Tour (88010) **2.00** Eurobics (3213) **2.30** Dutch Open Bowling Masters (23039) **3.30** Revs (8687) **4.00** Argentine Soccer 1991/92 (62382) **5.00** Indy Car World Series 1992 (6300) **6.00** Porsche Carrera Cup (635923) **6.15** Golf *Report (630478)* ***6.30** NBA Action 1992* (5923) **7.00** Gillette World Sports Special (7229) **7.30** Go — International Motorsport (47855) **8.30** US Men's Pro Ski Tour (2584) **9.00** Augusta Masters 1992 (21652) **11.00** NBA Basketball 1991/92 (55652)

LIFESTYLE

● **Via the Astra satellite.**
10.00am Getting Fit with Denise Austin (22942) **10.30** The Great American Gameshows (2901229) **11.20** Star Time (3231251) **11.25** Search for Tomorrow (3078403) **11.50** Sally Jessy Raphael (2329213) **12.45pm** David Hamilton's People (858300) **1.15** The Joan Rivers Show (7668039) **2.05** Power Hits USA (4005565) **3.05** The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Programme (5869107) **3.30** Cover Story (6805) **4.00** Tea Break (3543126) **4.10** Dick Van Dyke Show (6579768) **4.40** The Great American Gameshows (3882316) **5.30** Sell-a-Vision (9126) **6.00** Remington Steele (99126) **7.00** Sell-a-Vision (207590) **10.00** Jukebox Music Videos (4948958) **2.00am** Last Jukebox Dance (97904)



VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 5.00-5.30 Coming of Age (2923) **6.00** Home and Away (298381) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News Election '92 (587958) **11.00** Music Special (720229) **12.25-1.20** Matlock (1883237)

BORDER

As London except: 6.00pm Lookaround Friday (229) **6.30-7.00** Take the High Road (381) **11.00** Up Country (3687) **11.30** The Equalizer (541567) **12.25** Elvis: Good Rockin' Tonight (4066850) **12.50-1.20** Coach (6439661) **2.20** Jake and the Fatman (3726256) **3.15** CinemAttractions (29275) **3.45** Night Beat (242237) **4.45-5.45** The Gentle Trap (515695)

CENTRAL

As London except: 3.25-pm-3.55 The Countryside Show (1265039) **5.00-5.30** Australian Candid Camera (2923) **6.00** Home and Away (298381) **6.25-7.00** Central News (587958) **11.00** 1st Night (3687) **11.30-1.20** Film: Tangier (715403) **2.20** Film: Trial by Combat (488904) **4.00** The Hit Man and Her (7593966) **5.00-5.30** Central Jobfinder '92 (4281411)

GRANADA

As London except: 5.00pm-5.30 Dinosaurs (2923) **6.00** Home and Away (229) **6.30-7.00** Granada Tonight (381) **11.00** What's New (141213) **11.55** The Law and Harry McGraw (116132) **12.50-1.20** Elvis — Good Rockin Tonight (2802633) **2.20** Jake and the Fatman (3717508) **3.15** CinemAttractions (29275) **3.45** Night Beat (242237) **4.45-5.45** Film: The Gentle Trap (515695)

HTV WEST

As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 A Country Practice (1265039) **6.00** HTV News (229) **6.30-7.00** *HTV Sportsweek (381)* **11.00** *It's* Nearly Saturday (58861) **12.00am-1.20** McCloud: Somebody's Out to Get Jenny (9958508)

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 6.00pm Wales at Six **6.30-7.00** Stopwatch **11.00-12.00** Elinor

TSW

As London except: 3.23pm-3.55 The Sullivans (1266768) **6.00** TSW Today (229) **6.30-7.00** Gardens for All (381) **11.00** Film: Don't Drink the Water (202749) **12.50-1.20** Vietnam: The Ten Thousand Day War (2802633) **2.20** Jake and the Fatman (3717508) **3.15** CinemAttractions (29275) **3.45** Night Beat (242237) **4.45-5.45** Film: *The Gentle Trap (515695)*

TVS

As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Sons and Daughters (1265039) **6.00** Coast to Coast (247213) **6.50-7.00** Police 5 (220377) **11.00** Film: Enter the Dragon (202749) **12.50** Married...with Children (6439661) **1.15-1.20** Terrorvision (4823850)

TYNE TEES

As London except: 6.00pm Northern Life (229) **6.30-7.00** The Travel Magazine (381) **10.55** Beauty and the Beast (171774) **11.50-1.20** Film: Night of Terror (146403) **2.20** Jake and the Fatman (3717508) **3.15** CinemAttractions (29275) **3.45** Night Beat (242237) ***4.45-5.45** Film: The Gentle Trap* (515695)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 6.00pm Calendar News (229) **6.30-7.00** The Candidates (381) **11.00** Film: Satan's Triangle (527749) **12.20-1.20** War of the Worlds (7373324) **2.20** *Rhythm and Raag* (8422633) **2.50** Zara Dhyan Den (5598072) ***2.55-5.45** Azaad Desh Ke* Gulaam (68130508)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am C4 Daily (46300) **7.00** Canlyniad Au'R Etholiad (74855) **7.30** C4 Daily (59590) **8.00** Canlyniadau'r Etholiad (75923) **8.30** C4 Daily (5894010) **9.25** The Munsters* (4609652) **9.55** Road to Avonlea (5875045) ***10.50** Power of Ten (3717774)* **11.00** Kurdistan to Green Lanes (6720) **11.30** Get Smart (4749) **12.00** Noah's Ark (78010) **12.30** Newyddion A Chanlyniadau (64605749) **12.45** Slot Meithrin (64799132) **1.00** Fifteen to One (73126) **1.30** Business Daily (80774) **2.00** Sign On (9215) **2.30** Film: In Old Chicago* (98176749) **4.15** Pete Smith Specialities (9479749) **4.25** Slot 23 (3938381) **5.00** My Two Dads (8215) **5.30** Brookside (958) **6.00** Newyddion (747687) **6.15** Heno (21077) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (3229) **7.30** Y Maes Chwarae (107) **8.00** Cefn Gwlad (6749) **8.30** Newyddion (8584) **8.55** Y Byd Ar Bedwar (6584) **9.30** Vic Reeves Big Night Out (97687) **10.00** Roseanne (86039) **10.30** Whose Line Is It *Anyway? (68687)* ***11.00** The Messiah — The* Hallelujah Video (448213) **11.05** Hysteria III (629359) **1.05** Tonight with Jonathan Ross (4804343) **1.35** Diwedd

RTE 1

Starts: 11.45am Oiscoil Educational Experiences (84402565) **12.10** Oireachtas Report (72225768) **12.30** Opening Nights *(2084565)* ***1.00** News (9038687)* ***1.30** Aertel* Financial Pages (94879213) **1.35** Sons and Daughters (95346300) **2.00** GP (8838107) **3.00** Live at Three (2896213) **4.00** News (12729403) followed by The Sullivans (85743300) **4.30** The Persuaders (8526687) **5.20** Miss Ladybug (37496478) **5.30** A Country Practice (4996316) **6.00** The Angelus (8187403) **6.01** Six-One (2092584) **7.00** *Fair City (3764126)* **7.30** On the Waterfront (4800565) **8.00** Today Tonight Special (3846774) **8.30** Winning Streak (3752381) **8.00** News (2977132) **9.30** The Late Late Show (89818381)

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. **3.00am** Bruno Brookes **(FM only)**: The Early Breakfast Show **6.00** Simon Mayo **9.00** Simon Bates **12.30pm** Newsbeat **12.45** Jakki Brambles **3.00** Neale James in the Afternoon **6.00** Mark Goodier's Mega Hits **6.30** News '92 **7.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Friday Rock Show **11.00** John Peel **2.00-4.00am** Lynn Parsons **(FM only)**

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Alex Lester: The Early Show ***6.15** Pause for Thought* **6.30** Brian Hayes: Good Morning UK! **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young's Election '92 **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Pop Score **7.40** Friday Night is Music Night: Recorded at the Hippodrome, Golders Green, London. With the BBC Concert Orchestra under Roderick Dunk **8.45** Thomas Kaurich at the piano **9.00** Listen to the Band: Roy Newsome introduces the CSW Glasgow Band under Howard Snell **10.00** The Radio 2 Arts Programme from Manchester Natalie Anglesey looks at *Les Misérables* at the Palace Theatre and *A Festival of Musicals* at the Buxton Opera House **12.05am** Jazz Parade **12.35** Andrea Simmons with Night Ride **3.00-4.00** A Little Night Music

RADIO 5

News on the hour until **7.00pm. 6.00am** World Service: Newshour **6.30** Danny Baker's Morning Edition **9.35** Schools: Geography Resources; **9.55** English Study Texts; **10.25** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 **10.40** Johnnie Walker with The AM Alternative **12.30pm** House of Stars **1.00** News Update **1.15** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (r) **1.30** BFBS Worldwide **2.30** World Service: Global Concerns; **2.45** International Money Programme **3.00** Racing from Newbury: Gainsborough Fred Darling Stakes **4.05** Network UK **4.35** Five Aside **7.15** I Can Jump Puddles **7.30** Stage 5 **8.00** Multitrack 1 **8.30** Vibe-Line: 0345 909693 **9.30** Bull! **10.10** Rave, incl **11.00** Sport **12.00-12.10am** News; Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. **4.30am** World Business Report **4.40** Travel and Weather News **4.45** News and Press Review in German **5.00** Morgenmagazin **5.20** Tips für Touristen **5.24** News in German **5.30** Europe Today **5.59** Weather **6.00** World News **6.30** Londres Matin **6.59** Weather **7.00** World News **7.09** Election Round Up, incl British News **7.15** The World Today **7.30** Meridian **8.00** Newsdesk **8.30** First Among Equals **9.00** World News **9.09** Words of Faith **9.15** Music Review **10.00** World News **10.05** World Business Report Live **10.15** Global Concerns **10.30** Seven Seas **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News Summary **11.01** Focus on Faith **11.30** Londres Midi **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **11.59** Business Update **Noon** Newdesk **12.30pm** Meridian **1.00** World News **1.09** Election Special, incl British News **1.45** Sports Roundup **2.00** Newshour **3.00** World News **3.05** Outlook Live **3.30** Off the Shelf: The Wayfarer's Staff **3.45** Global Concerns **4.00** World News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Heute Aktuell **5.00** World and British News **5.14** Travel News **5.15** BBC English **5.30** Londres Soir **6.14** Look Ahead **6.20** World Business Report **6.29** News Summary **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** German Features **7.54** News in German **8.00** World News **8.05** Outlook **8.30** Europe Tonight **9.00** World News **9.09** The World Today **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** Science in Action **10.00** Newshour **11.00** World News **11.09** News about Britain **11.15** People and Politics **11.45** Sports Roundup **Midnight** World News **12.05am** World Business Report **12.15** Worldbrief **12.30** Multitrack 3 **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** From the Weeklies **1.45** Recording of the Week **2.00** World News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Short Story: Blue Pyjamas **2.45** Jazz Now and Then **3.00** Newsdesk **3.30** People and Politics **4.00** World News **4.09** Words of Faith **4.15** Sports Roundup

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather; News Headlines

7.00 Morning Concert: Walton (Crown Imperial); Vivaldi (Concerto in A minor, L'Estro Armonico); Arriaga (Overture, Los esclavos felices)

7.30 News

***7.35 Morning Concert**: Bax* (Tintagel); Jongen (Concert à cinq); Bourgeois (Serenade); Bernstein (Prelude, Fugue and Riffs) **8.30 News**

8.35 Composers of the Week: Richard Strauss and the Third Reich. Oboe Concerto; Menuett, Symphony for wind instruments; Metamorphosen

9.35 Morning Sequence: A tribute to the bandleader Harry Mortimer, who died in January. Berlioz (The Royal Hunt and Storm, The Trojans: Hallé Orchestra under Harty); Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a *theme of Paganini*: Philadelphia Orchestra under Leopold Stokowski, with Sergei Rachmaninov, piano); Philip Wilby (Shadow-Songs, In Memoriam HM: Besses o' th' Barn Band under the composer); Mozart (Quartet in *B flat, K 589: Brindisi Quartet)*; Puccini (In questa Reggia, Turandot: Orchestra under Robinson, with Eva Turner, soprano); Ireland (A Downland Suite: Foden's Motor Works Band under Fred Mortimer); Sibelius (Symphony No 7 in C, *Op 105: RPO under Beecham)*

11.30 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Barry Wordsworth performs Ravel (Ballet, Mother Goose); Arthur Bliss (Cello Concerto: Raphael Wallfisch); Prokofiev (Cinderella, Suite No 2, Op *108)* **1.00pm News**

1.05 Mozart and Shostakovich: Hagen Quartet performs Mozart (Quartet in F, K 590); Shostakovich (Quartet No 14 in F sharp, Op 142)

2.05 Opera News (r)

2.50 Mining the Archive: Janet Baker. A recital in celebration of the English mezzo-soprano, drawing on recordings from 1961 and 1965. Dowland (Come again sweet love); Caldara (Sebben Crudele); Scarlatti (Qual farfalletta amante); Rossini (Il Rimprovero); Schubert (Gretchen am Spinnrade; Minnelied; Die abgeblühte Linde; Das Lied im Grünen; Die Götter Griechenlands; An die Laute; Nacht und Träume); Strauss (Die Nacht; Meinem Kinde; Befreit); Schoenberg (Traumleben, Op 6 No 1; Der Wanderer, Op 6 No 8; Ich darf nicht dankend, Op 14 No 1; Sommermüd, Op 48; Tot, Op 48; Mädchenlied, Op 48); Dunhill (The Cloths of Heaven); Trad, arr Ireland (The Three Ravens); Trad, arr Britten (O Waly Waly; The Sally Gardens); Trad, arr Burleigh (Were you there? with Desmond Dupré, lute, Charles Spinks, harpsichord, and Ernest Lush, Geoffrey Parsons and Paul Hamburger, pianos)

4.45 Haydn: BBC Scottish SO under Sanderling performs Symphony No 39 in G minor (r)

5.00 Mainly for Pleasure

6.30 Phantom Navigations: The second of three programmes about Weather Report, the jazz-rock ensemble, looks at the mid-1970s **7.00 News**

7.05 Third Ear. The architect Nicholas Grimshaw talks to Hugh Pearman

***7.30 Krystian Zimerman**: The* pianist plays Chopin (Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38; Waltz in A flat, Op 34 No 1)

7.45 Ermione: Live from the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. The New Company Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment *under Mark Elder performs Act* 1 of Rossini's two-act opera to a libretto by Andrea Leone Tottola. Sung in Italian. With Anna Caterina Antonacci, soprano, as Ermione. **9.05** Rossini and Naples. Nicholas Till examines Rossini's creative *relationship with the Teatro* San Carlo. **9.25** Act 2

10.20 The Crane: Brenda Townsend's haunting play tells the story of a Japanese peasant who rescues a wounded crane. The following year, he meets and marries a beautiful girl. With Nigel Carrington and Victoria Carling. Narrated by John Moffatt

10.45 The Stations of the Cross: Simon Wright plays Marcel Dupré's symphonic poem on the organ of Ampleforth Abbey **11.30 News**

11.35-12.35am Composers of the Week: Haydn (r)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on **FM**

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** Today, incl **6.03** Weather **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.58** Weather

9.00 News

9.05-9.45 Desert Island Discs (FM only): Sue Lawley's castaway is the art historian Sir Ernst Gombrich (s) (r)

9.05-10.00 Election '92 (LW only): Brian Redhead presents the latest results

9.45 The Village (FM only): Real-life stories about the Hampshire community of Bentley

10.00-10.30 News; Carry On Up the Zeitgeist (FM only): Beyond a Joke. Edward Blishen recalls the birth of *Beyond the Fringe* at the Edinburgh Festival in 1960 (4 of 6)

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 The Bible (LW only): Micah. Anna Massey reads the first of two selections from the Authorised Version

10.30-1.00pm Election '92 (LW only)

***10.30* Woman's Hour (FM** only) looks at cycling in York, and women cartoonists. Incl **11.00 News**

11.30 The Natural History Programme (FM only), with Jessica Holm

12.00 You and Yours (FM only)

***12.25pm* The Food Programme** (FM only), presented by Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke and James Naughtie

1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping

2.00 News; Classic Serial (FM only): Tess of the d'Urbervilles. *Second of a three-part* dramatisation of Thomas Hardy's novel (s) (r)

2.00-5.00 Election '92 (LW only)

3.00 Special Assignment (FM only)

3.30 Bookshelf (FM only): Nigel Forde explores the life and work of Kate Roberts, writer of prose in Welsh (s)

4.00 News (FM only)

4.05 Kaleidoscope (FM only): Includes a review of a new production of George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* at the National Theatre (s)

4.45 Short Story (FM only): The Little Heidelberg, by Isabel Allende. Read by Diana Quick

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Going Places: *Janet Trewin* presents the transport magazine

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20-8.05 Pick of the Week (FM only), with Chris Serle (s)

7.20 Woman's Hour (LW only) (r)

8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Duffield, *Derbyshire*, by Tony Benn, Sir Norman Fowler, Des Wilson, campaign organiser for the Liberal Democrat party, and Baroness Tessa Blackstone

8.50 Stop Press, with Geoffrey Goodman

9.15 Kaleidoscope: Designing for Millions?

● CHOICE: Note the question mark in the title of this feature about the fashion world. Is it millions of pounds at issue here? Or are the millions the masses? Or (as seems likely), are they one and the same thing? The designer of the hand-painted shirts that sell for £235 says there is "no problem" about selling them. And the ice-blue jacket that sells for £368, plus £150 for the trousers, are "quite a bargain", apparently. Small wonder reporter Tim Marlow asks why he should pay more than £400 for a designer blazer when he could buy eight similar ones in the high street for the same money (r)

9.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke

10.00 The World Tonight, with Richard Kershaw (s)

10.45 A Book at Bedtime: Love is Blue, by Joan Wyndham. Read by Prunella Scales (9 of 10)

11.00 Week Ending: A satirical review of the week's news. With Bill Wallis, Sally Grace, David Tate and *Alistair* McGowan (s)

11.25 The Financial Week (s)

11.45 Cutler the Lax: Humorist Ivor Cutler delves into the archives (s) (r)

12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** World Service **(LW only)**

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. **Radio 2:** FM-88-90.2. **Radio 3:** FM-90.2-92.4. **Radio 4:** 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. **Radio 5:** 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. **LBC:** 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. **Capital:** 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. **GLR:** 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; **World Service:** MW 648kHz/463m.

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE